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CAST YOUR VOTE

Why your excuses shouldn't keep you from the polls.
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The medical effects of sports-related head injuries.
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THE SPECTATOR

Thursday
September 30, 2010

Volume LI Number 5

Hamilton criticized by ACTA for sanctions against Paquette

by Kate Moore '12
News Editor

Last spring, former Professor Christopher Hill was controversially denied a tenure-track position, prompting heated exchanges between faculty, students and the administration. Former Dean of Faculty Joseph Urgo banned Publius Virgilius Rogers Professor of American History Robert Paquette from participating in future faculty candidate searches following the controversy surrounding former Professor Christopher Hill's tenure rejection last spring. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) has sent a letter to the Hamilton College Board of Trustees condemning Urgo's decision and recommending that the Dean's office restore Paquette's right to participate in faculty searches. The letter also addresses the circumstances that lead to Hill's rejection and encourages the College to reassess its hiring processes.

Hill was a professor in the history department who was hired in 2006 for a term position. The position was redefined as a tenure-track position in 2009, and a nation-wide search for the position began. Hill

*see **ACTA**, page 4*

Extended first-year orientation

PHOTOS BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

Sexual assault education addresses social issues on campus

by Caitlin O'Connor '14
News Contributor

The campus was abuzz with debate this week as first-year students were required for the first time to attend additional orientation programs addressing sexual assault. Many students believed that these events were created in response to recent incidences of sexual assault on campus. However, according to Nancy Thompson, dean of students, "the programs that took place this weekend have been in the works since last May." First-year students were told during the first day of orientation that their orientation would continue into the academic year, with more required events in late September.

The sexual assault program consisted of two separate events, one aimed toward men and the other aimed toward women. The women's segment featured a play written by a Hamilton alumna and acted out by five female upperclassmen. The men witnessed a lecture by Keith Edwards, founder of the organization Men Ending Rape.

The program was in fact open to every student on campus, not just first-years. Many athletic coaches required their male athletes to attend Edwards' interactive lecture, "She Fears You," regardless of class year. Many fraternity members were also in attendance. Edwards stated that all men are not rapists, but that "Fraternities are more likely to be homophobic or misogynistic to defend against the fact that they are a large group of men living together."

Some students were bothered by the fact that the women's play, "Fresh," focused on support and acceptance, while the men were instructed on how to improve themselves. Edwards' shocking title, "She Fears You", also made some students uncomfortable, as they felt it perpetuated sexism. These students felt that the titles and varying content of the two programs did more hurt than good by increasing the divide between genders on campus.

Hamilton students were not the only ones upset by this new mandatory orientation program. Bill Nojay, a conservative Rochester radio host, contacted *The Spectator* in order to further investigate what he believes to be, "an eerie echo of the communist youth indoctrination programs of the Soviet era." He plans to receive student opinions and feature the issue on his show.

In addition to Nojay's complaints, the Foundation

*see **Sexual Assault**, page 2*

1812 Garden | Slow food movement promotes "good, clean and fair" food

by Kate Moore '12
News Editor

In an era where fast food reigns supreme, an oppositional force has sprung up in the form of the Slow Food USA movement. The organization promotes food that is "good, clean and fair," asserting that the food should be grown in a pristine environment, made available to all and be produced by farmers who earn real world wages.

Last Saturday, thousands of people participated in the national "Dig In" day sponsored by Slow Food USA. Members of the Slow Food Mohawk Val

*see **Garden**, page 4*

PHOTO BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

Students in the College 235 Food Seminar harvested "cups" and "lumpers" potatoes from the 1812 garden.

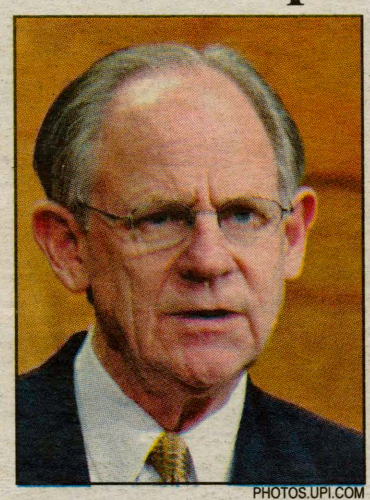
Alum Mike Castle loses primary election

Hamilton education prepares graduates for success and setbacks

by Kate Tummarello '11
Editor-in-Chief

Hamilton alumnus Mike Castle '61 made national news recently after facing off against and losing to Tea Party candidate Christine O'Donnell in Delaware's Senatorial GOP primary race.

The Washington Post's website reported on Wednesday, Sept. 28 that contrary to recent rumors, Representative Castle will not be running as a write-in candidate come November. The primary was highly publicized due to O'Donnell's controversial media appearances and Tea Party affiliations.



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ASSETS.NYDAILYNEWS.COM

Castle '61 lost the primary election to Christine O'Donnell.

Moving on from his recent political defeat, Castle still reflects on the experiences he had and skills he gained at Hamilton. "I have always said that success at Hamilton prepares you for anything that life has to offer," Castle told *The Spectator*.

PHOTOS BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

Performers at Sunday's presentation of "Fresh" address issues of adjusting to campus life.

FIRE opposes mandatory sexual assault program for first-years

from ***Sexual Assault,*** *page 1*

for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) addressed a letter to President Joane Hinde Stewart on the matter. FIRE asked that Stewart make the male program optional in order to protect students' rights. However, sexual assault education for college students is required by New York State law. The activist group was primarily concerned with the men's program in comparison the women's, shown by only a brief mention of "Fresh" near the letter's completion. FIRE viewed "She Fears You" as a "cognitive and emotional intervention" on the part of Hamilton College.

In spite of a few dissenters, many students still found the new orientation program both insightful and effective. Even though the content of the program at times seemed unrealistic and out of context to students, Bethany Campbell '14 said, "I was amazed at how connected I felt to the characters." Although the men's lecture contained discord and solemnity, many students still felt like they got a good experience out of it. As Kevin Prior '13 said, "I found the lecture to be very thought-provoking, even if I didn't agree with everything the speaker was saying."

There will be another extended-orientation program for first-years later this year focused on diversity issues. Northside Area Director of Residential Life Noelle Nizinik believes this process of lengthening orientation is beneficial. "Students can now contextualize a lot of what we are trying to convey because they have become part of the campus community," she said

The College is planning to contine the tradition of having orientation follow-up activities in the years to come.

NOTE:

It should be known that although these events were said to be required by the Administration, no Hill Card swiping was done at either the male or female program. Therefore, some students may not have attended the presentations in their entirety.

Alum donates $1 million grant for scholarship fund

by Emily Gerston '11
News Editor

Hamilton's new need-blind initiative gained another supporter and source of funding earlier this month when Stephen Steinberg '66 created a $1 million endowment. The scholarship is funded by Steinberg's charitable foundation, the Steinberg-Lalli charitable foundation, which he founded with his friend and business partner Joseph Lalli. Graduates of Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, the local high school in the area that Steinberg and Lalli grew up, will have priority to receive the scholarship each year.

Steinberg said in an interview for the Hamilton College website newsfeed that he founded this scholarship in order to encourage students from the Acton-Boxborough area to apply to Hamilton. "With college costs rising, the economic pressures caused by the recession and Hamilton's adoption of a need-blind policy, the time seemed appropriate to make this gift," Steinberg said.

Isabel Krakoff '14, one of two freshmen from the Acton-Boxborough area admitted this year, was supportive of the new scholarship, adding that she wished she had been eligible for the scholarship when she applied to Hamilton.

"Acton-Boxborough is a huge sports school so most of the scholarships that get given, at least the big ones, are sports related. In Acton, unfortunately, it's most often the non-athletes that need the most financial aid from the colleges," she said. "I really like the idea of a school like Hamilton giving Acton-Boxborough [students] some help. It's an awesome school, and as far as Acton-Boxborough goes, it's not often that we get help from the private colleges."

"When I was applying to Hamilton, not many people at my high school had heard of it," said Connor Finnegan '13. "However, I've been hearing it mentioned a lot more in the Acton-Boxborough area the past couple of years, and I think this scholarship will certainly help to generate interest about Hamitlon at Acton-Boxborough."

"Hamilton has always been a school of opportunity," said Monica Inzer, dean of Admission and Financial Aid, about the need-blind admission policy in an interview with *The Spectator* last year. "This policy is an extension of that. The goal was not need-blind, the goal was access. It's about students who work hard and deserve to be here."

As the school embarks upon fundraising efforts to create a $40 million endowment to enable need-blind's continuation, the Steinberg-Lalli scholarship indicates a strong start to their fundraising efforts.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Joshua Yates '14
News Writer

Trinity College

How far is a school willing to go to convey the importance of fire safety? At Trinity College, it means going far enough to make a serious point. Students witnessed two replica residential halls intentionally set ablaze on the main quad. The Hartford Fire Department quickly extinguished the flames, but the overall lesson of fire safety is what the college and fire department want to stress. "We typically lose eight to fifteen students a year due to fires in college settings throughout the nation," said Deputy Fire Marshal Roger Martin, who helped stage the event, in an interview in a Trinity College News press release. Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra, also on hand, issued a proclamation to note the occasion."I'm here for a simple reason – your safety," Segarra told the students who had gathered on the quad to watch the rooms go up in smoke. The objective of the "controlled burn" was to show how dangerous it is for students to cover up the smoke detectors in their rooms because if a fire were to break out, it would take considerably longer for the occupants to be alerted so they could flee. Segarra ended by assuring students that Hartford has a "first-rate fire department," one that is "doing everything it can to keep people safe."

Bates College

As part of the Phi Betta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program, "which makes available each year a dozen or so distinguished scholars who visit colleges and universities that have chapters of Phi Beta Kappa," economist Herbert Gintis is visiting the Bates campus to offer a lecture titled "The Evolution of Morality." According to Bates Views, the lecture will "challenge the classical understanding of morality as presented by philosophers such as Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, as a product of civil society. Instead, he will posit morality as the product of an evolutionary dynamic involving genes and culture." Gintis will spend two days on campus meeting informally with students and faculty, taking part in classroom discussions and give a public lecture open to the entire academic community. Gintis is an external professor at the Santa Fe Institute and a professor of economics at Central European University in Budapest, where he heads a multidisciplinary research project, The Social and Mental Dynamics of Cooperation, funded by the European Science Foundation.

Tufts University

"I learned this, at least, by my experiment; that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours." These are just some of the famous words from author Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*, and, recently, the Tufts Art Gallery has opened a new exhibition honoring Thoreau entitled *Renovating Walden*. The purpose of the exhibition, according to the *Tufts Journal*, is "understanding Thoreau's motives and ideas, how they relate to us today and advancing the belief that we will only find our true selves when we shed the trappings of social structures and experience life at its essence." Gallery Director Amy Ingrid Schlegel told the *Journal*, "the exhibition is immersive." From walls dazzled with art, photography and objects from Thoreau's time, such as a beehive smoker and pencils Thoreau manufactured himself, to the "scent of fresh-cut lumber and wood shingles," students journey through time to Walden Pond. Exhibition creator J. Morgan Puett said. "It is an unusual way to experience art. It is a way to collaborate with the world and not slather on too many egos—a democratic way of maneuvering through the world. What I'm really interested in is the future and what it looks like and in inventing a future through history and material culture and art."

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Senior fellow explores alternative food movements across country

PHOTO COURTESY OF CATY TABORDA '11

by Kerry Q. Coughlin '11
Senior Staff Writer

Imagine having an entire year to devote to research of your choice, with all other course requirements waived. With Hamilton's Senior Fellowship program, you can do just that.

This year, one student elected to take advantage of the program. Caty Taborda '11 will spend her senior year looking at alternative food movements in the United States. Along with her advisors, Professor of Sociology Stephen Ellingson and Professor of English Naomi Guttman, Taborda will look into the increased popularity of local, organic and sustainable agriculture, and the reasons that people are participating in these movements.

"My ultimate goal is to not only understand why people participate, but how we go about making these alternative food movements more inclusive to a broader community," she said.

The goal of the Senior Fellowship is to offer students an opportunity to pursue academic interests that they may not otherwise have had the chance to explore with a full senior year course load.

"The Fellowship Program is great because it offers Fellows a lot of independence and freedom, but it's also a lot of work, and the committee expects a very in-depth project that incorporates the scope of the liberal arts," said Taborda.

Each spring, the Dean of Faculty selects up to seven juniors as Senior Fellows for the following academic year. Juniors interested in becoming a Senior Fellow must submit a proposal explaining why they would like to be a Senior Fellow and how it fits into their academic and career goals. They must also outline their senior year and present how their previous years at Hamilton have achieved a liberal arts breadth of study. The proposals are read each April by the Dean of Faculty, the Academic Council and the Director of the Senior Fellowship Program, Professor Steve Humphries-Brooks.

> **"The Fellowship Program is great because it offers Fellows a lot of independence and freedom, but it's also a lot of work"**

Senior Fellows can sit in on relevant classes, but do not receive credit and are not required to complete major assignments. Their senior year is graded as a Pass/Fail. At the end of their research, Senior Fellows submit final theses to a number of readers, present a lecture to the Hamilton Community, and orally defend their research.

Last Year's Senior Fellows

Gail M. Corneau '10
Seven-Membered and Sweet: Routes to Rational Antibiotic Design Using Unnatural Carbohydrates to Explore Antimicrobial Resistance in Staphylococcus Infections

Catherine Fiona Kirkpatrick '10
Gendering Empire: British Women, Indian Women, and Discourses of Race, Gender and Intimacy in Colonial India 1858-1947

Autumn Rose Haroutunian '10
Psycho-Artchitecture: An Exploration of Phenomenology, Intention, and the Construction of Human Consciousness

Food Seminar students promote biodiversity

from ***Garden,*** *page 1*

ley chapter and students in the College 235 Food Seminar broke ground in the 1812 Garden to participate in this nationwide event.

The Food Seminar class was originally a sophomore seminar, but that program is now defunct. According to Frank Sciacca, associate professor of German and Russian languages and literatures and co-leader of the Slow Food Mohawk Valley chapter, "[the Food Seminar] is one of the most sought after courses at Hamilton."

"It's the one class I've taken at Hamilton that I would recommend to everybody. Everybody can get something out of it," said Erica Kowsz '11.

Students in the course explore what makes slow food a healthier option for people and the environment. Many crops have seen a dramatic loss of biodiversity, prompting "seed saving" groups to promote seed selection by selling diverse seeds to farmers. Students have also researched Iroquois planting methods.

Hamilton is doing its part to facilitate the slow food movement by implementing biodiversity in the 1812 Garden. This garden is based on the original farm maintained by Hamilton's first president, Azel Backus. It is a progressive kitchen garden, meaning that it is environmentally-friendly and organic. Sciacca and Professor of Biology David Gapp, who also teaches the Food Seminar course, researched and visited three progressive kitchen gardens in Cooperstown, NY, Old Sturbridge Village, MA and Monticello, NY before breaking ground on the 1812 Garden.

In the spirit of Slow Food USA's "Ark of Taste," which "links the pleasure of food with a commitment to community and the environment," those in attendance at Saturday's event were given seeds of the crops that are being grown in the 1812 Garden before harvesting two forms of heirloom potatoes from the garden.

PHOTOS BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

ACTA urges trustees to reconsider faculty hiring processes

from ACTA, page 1

applied but was not considered after the first round of candidate eliminations. Members of the selection committee cited a lack of research as the reason for Hill's elimination.

Community Response

Hill's denial of a tenured position, which made the 2009-2010 academic year his last at Hamilton, sparked an outcry from students as well as his colleague, Paquette. He felt that Hill was a casualty of ideological fractures within the History Department, as well as the campus in general. On Feb. 18, 2010 *The Spectator* published a letter to the editor from Paquette claiming Hill's rejection was not due to insufficient research, but rather his libertarianism.

Hill sent letters to President Joan Hinde Stewart and Urgo expressing his concern that his case was not considered objectively. With Hill's permission, Paquette sent a copy of the letter to Chairman of the Board of Trustees A.G. Lafley. According to Paquette, none of the recipients replied.

A Question of Intellectual Diversity

Paquette considered Hill's case an indication of a larger campus-wide problem: a lack of intellectual diversity. He wrote two articles addressing this issue for the National Association of Scholars website, which also referenced Hill's case specifically. Urgo considered the publication of the first NAS article to be a breach of the College's confidentiality policy regarding job candidate searches, citing the Department Chair Guidelines on page seven of the Faculty Handbook. He pointed to a specific statement in Paquette's first NAS article that Hill was rejected "despite the dissenting voices of four senior members of the department."

A Violation of College Policy?

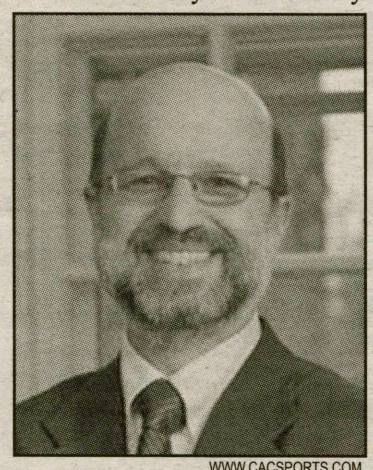
On May 3, 2010 Urgo sent Paquette a letter informing him "you will be barred from participation in future searches until and unless your colleagues can convince the Dean's office that you will adhere to College policies regarding faculty recruitment. I [Urgo] ask further that in recognition of College policy, you ask that the National Association of Scholars remove your essay from its website."

Paquette's penalty was publicized in the July 22, 2010 issue of *Inside Higher Ed*. This attracted the attention of ACTA. According to its website, the organization is "committed to academic freedom, excellence and accountability at America's colleges and universities."

ACTA's Response

ACTA was moved to send a letter to each member of Hamilton's Board of Trustees arguing that "the former Dean's reprisal against [Paquette] represents a violation of academic freedom and possibly an actionable violation of his civil rights."

Paquette maintains that he did not violate any confidentiality policy. He argues that the Departmental Chair Guidelines should not be applied in his case since he is not a department chair; nor was he on the search committee that considered Hill's candidacy; nor was he present at the History Department meeting in which the votes for Hill's consideration were cast. He also holds that it was not inappropriate for the raw vote to be revealed to Hill, which Hill then had the freedom to discuss and publicize as he pleased.



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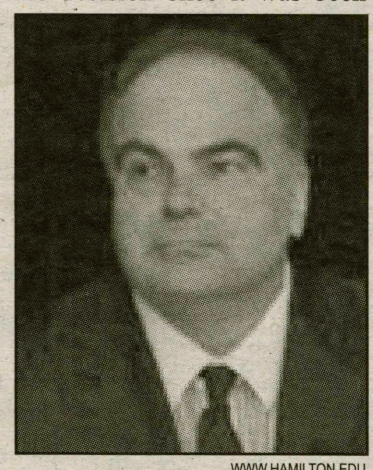

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Former Dean of Faculty Joe Urgo (left) banned Professor Paquette (right) from future participation in search committees.

In a May 11, 2010 letter Paquette sent to Urgo responding to being banned, Paquette claimed "as any number of senior professors at Hamilton College can attest, candidates for tenure are often told of the raw vote in the decision once it was been made as well as the reasons behind the majority decision." In an interview with *The Spectator*, Paquette argued that "my vote is my private property and if I want to explain why I voted the way I did, I can do so. And, [the information] I published [in the NAS article] was public and obvious."

Action Still Pending

Paquette sent a follow-up letter to Urgo on May 27, 2010 and has not yet received a reply. Urgo left Hamilton at the end of the previous academic year and is currently the President of St. Mary's College of Maryland. The Dean of Faculty office is aware that ACTA has requested that Urgo's ban on Paquette be rescinded. According to Acting Dean of Faculty Patrick Reynolds, no trustees have contacted the Dean's office in regard to ACTA's letter at the time of publication.

"When assembling a search committee, our primary interest is conducting a successful search [for a highly qualified candidate]," said Reynolds. He emphasized that search committee members need to be able to work together and have a shared conception of what an ideal candidate will look like. Reynolds was unable to say if ACTA's letter would have any influence in overturning Paquette's ban from participating in future searches.

The ACTA letter concludes "that Professor Hill is not being judged on his merits but for being out of step with the general faculty orthodoxy." The letter also asserts Hamilton does not value intellectual diversity and offers to send a representative from ACTA to speak with the Board of Trustees. The letter has not yet received a response from any board members.

Student Assembly Update

by Michael Koester '13
News Writer

Burke Library Remodeling

The third floor was renovated over the summer. New carpeting, ceiling, energy efficient lighting and electricity around the windows was installed. Lighting in the aisle areas is motion controlled, and the lighting around the study areas is dependent on a switch. Three rooms were added to the rare book section: a research room, an office of the curator for Special Collections, and workspace for processing new materials. The librarians are planning new layout changes. They are installing lockers in the basement for seniors completing their theses and looking to reshape the layout of study spaces on the second floor, possibly in the same fashion as the cubicles on the first floor. Ideas are welcome, contact rericson@hamilton.edu.

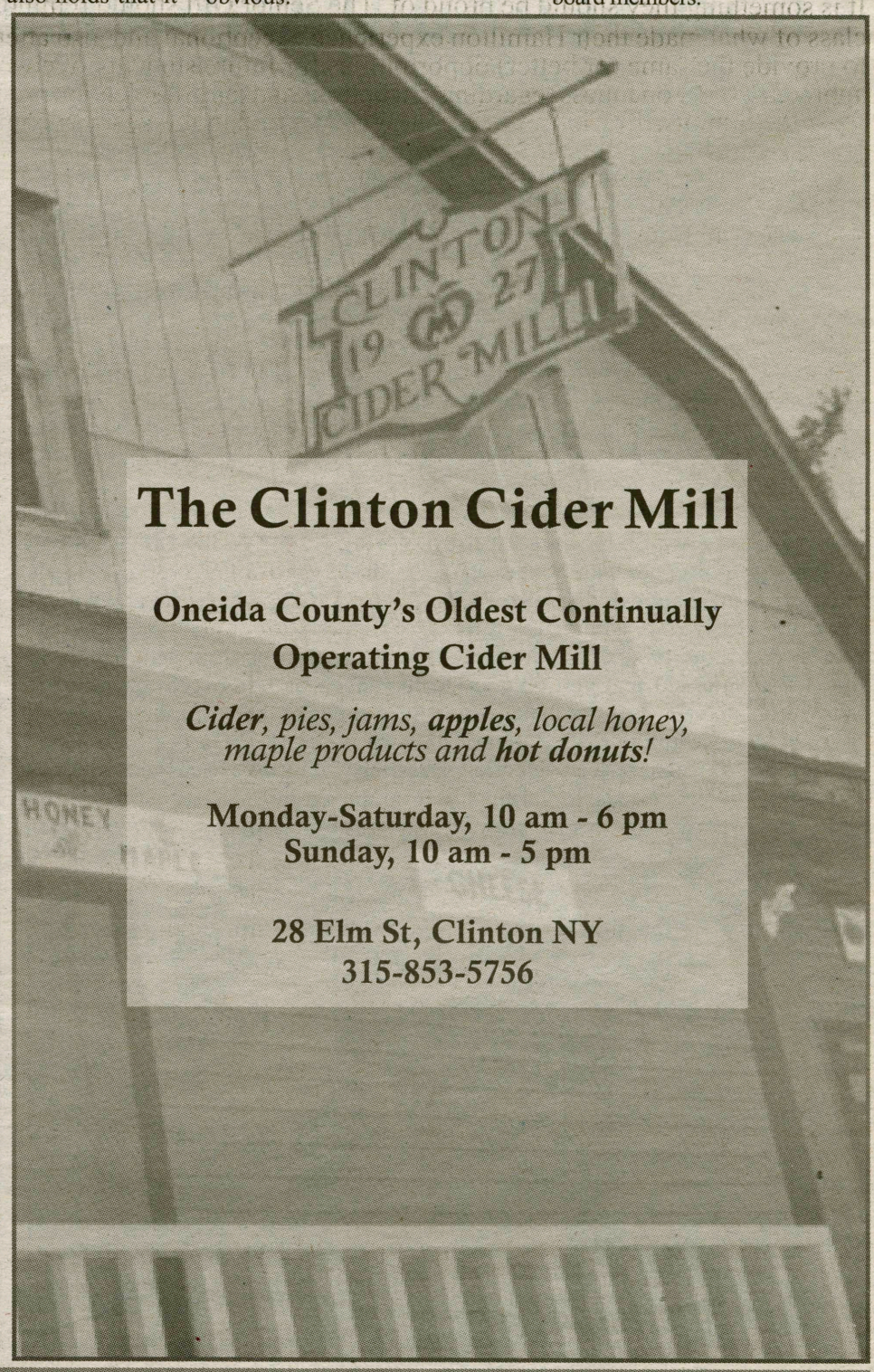
Food Committee Updates

The Food Committee held their first meeting with the staff of Bon Appétit. Student objections to the sandwich bar in Commons were discussed. Committee Chair Ann Hull '12 communicated student frustrations with long lines and no fast access to sandwiches. The staff said they believe that the sandwich counter is more sanitary and less wasteful than the previous system, but are open to suggestions. In addition to the sandwich bar Commons' staff can make pre-prepared sandwiches so on-the-go students have a convenient option. They would like to know what premade sandwiches students would like to see. Email ahull@hamilton.edu with any ideas.

Interested in Greek Life?

Rush begins Friday, October 1!

Information session on Monday, October 4 at 8 p.m. in KJ 127 (Red Pit)



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Leaving a Legacy

Senior Gift selection process needs to be reevaluated

The Senior Gift should be representative of the personality of the Senior Class. Gifts from the past few classes, however, seem to represent the College's mission more than the vision and goals of each senior class. The flawed selection process for the Senior Gift, due to both poor communication and misguided selection criteria, prevents this from happening. The method by which the gift options are chosen needs to be reevaluated.

The Senior Gift presents the one chance a whole class has together to leave a legacy on the Hill. The process by which the Committee reaches the final choices needs to be more transparent. It should keep the class informed of the status of the gift at each step in the gift selection process. The Committee, charged with collecting ideas and formulating a final shortlist, needs to do more than compile opinions in a survey and present three choices for a final vote. The Committee should be more forthcoming with both the proposals submitted and the vote totals. This would allow more debate and discussion and present a more transparent process when creating the "shortlist" of senior gift options.

It is our strong belief that the deciding vote in this process should be cast by seniors. It is the class's legacy at stake, and it should be the class that determines what this legacy should be. We learned through discussions with Communications and Development (C&D) officials that the Senior Gift Committee solicits gift ideas from various departments of the College. We acknowledge that this input may be valuable but feel that seniors should be informed of each proposal's source. If a department wants a pet project funded or a scholarship endowed, seniors should know that the proposal came from outside the student body.

Members of the Senior Class should not feel pressured to contribute to Hamilton's broad or ongoing initiatives. Once they step across the stage at graduation and become alumni, seniors will support these through their alumni donations. Seniors should be given the independence to pursue something they find exciting, interesting and valuable. If they do not find current College missions compelling, they should be free to name a reasonable alternative.

After the current senior class has graduated and left the Hill, the most meaningful reminder of the class' existence here will be in their Senior Gift. It is something they should be proud of. The Senior Gift should remind the class of what made their Hamilton experience exceptional and also attempt to provide the same (or better) opportunities for future students. We would appreciate more openness regarding gift options and the gift selection process from the Senior Gift Committee, both this year and in the years to come.

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The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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The Spectator's Letter-to-the-Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

Nevertheless, *The Spectator* has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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FACE OFF: Is Hamilton's emphasis on writing-intensive courses constructive?

Closing our open curriculum

by Michael Koester '13
OPINION CONTRIBUTER

Prospective students should read the fine print on admissions' brochures when they describe the "open curriculum." The absence of specific core requirements at Hamilton is an incentive for many students to attend, but the conflicts writing-intensive classes create for students' schedules eliminates the openness in our curriculum.

A student is required to take three writing-intensive classes before graduating. This seems reasonable. However, students planning to study abroad must complete this requirement (along with physical education requirements) prior to their semester on leave. Students, such as myself, feel a "crunch" in their schedules, as we rush to complete requirements. Writing-intensive courses have limited space. Academic guidelines for writing intensive courses (found on the registrar's webpage) specify that 20 people maximum be allowed in the classes.

Bekah McPheeters '13 claimed, "Already, the poor options for [writing-intensive] classes bother me, and the limited amount of students allowed in each class limits me from taking the ones I want."

Students with later registration times are less likely to get into a writing class that interests them. Should a student take a random writing intensive course only to fulfill requirements? This may provide a necessary academic challenge, but there is a chance that the student gain little to no insight from the course.

The scarcity of writing-intensive courses could be alleviated if the guidelines for courses were broadened and fixed. To be considered writing-intensive, the guidelines stipulate that a course cannot have less than four papers, and these papers must be spread equally throughout the term. But what about classes, such as 200-level history courses, that have two papers that require many pages for each?

It appears writing is not properly quantified for these classes. Many students cannot tell the difference between writing-intensive courses and regular courses.

Rachel Tiche '13 said, "Last semester, my writing-intensive course had four papers, but this semester, my non-writing-intensive class requires six, so why can't my current class count towards my requirements?"

These guidelines state that writing focused courses can include laboratory reports, which clearly includes science classes. Upon examining the course selection, however, I find that there are no writing-intensive science courses. This is most likely due to the fact that guidelines four and five require the instructor to provide extensive commentary on the graded papers and accommodate for peer review in class, a conference with the instructor or an opportunity to revise any graded paper. The extra work involved discourages a professor from teaching a writing-intensive class because it creates extra work for the professor.

Hamilton is "a college focused on writing," a phrase that differentiates us from other liberal arts colleges. It would be to the contrary of this mission to eliminate writing-intensive classes. The system just needs improvement.

Alyssa Womer '13 stated, "I think that the idea is great, but the college needs to better articulate [the writing-intensive policies] and expand the choices available."

There are ways to make the requirements effective for the curriculum. Hamilton should require all students to finish their writing-intensive classes by sophomore year. This puts pressure on students; however, it forces the college to better accommodate for writing-intensive classes. The rule regarding the amount of papers should be changed to quantify the amount of pages a student writes. The faculties of each department are responsible to meet the fourth and fifth guidelines. Members of each department should work out amongst themselves who will teach writing-intensive classes for each semester, thereby providing more class options across all concentrations.

Every word is worth it

by Scott Milne '14
OPINION CONTRIBUTER

Hamilton's website has changed, but its catchphrase has not. The College still markets itself as "a national leader in teaching students to write effectively," and for good reason. Anyone familiar with Hamilton knows that Hamilton graduates express themselves clearly through writing, regardless of their major.

This skill is not inherent in Hamilton students; it is learned through consistent practice. As restricting as the requirement may feel, the writing-intensive courses are effective and affirm the identity of Hamilton as a writing school.

Hamilton is a small college, geographically remote and in stiff academic competition with the other NESCAC schools. We fight an uphill battle for distinction. During my college search, Hamilton's emphasis on writing was a huge factor in my decision to apply and, ultimately, to attend. When I was looking at other small northeastern colleges, I did not find many distinctive qualities. Williams, Middlebury, Amherst, Bowdoin: what is the difference? How much boasting of small classes and world-class faculty can one take before it all becomes meaningless mush?

Hamilton offers the same range majors as any reputable liberal arts college, but all students learn the practical skill of writing effectively. We learn to write competently through writing classes and our writing prowess distinguishes Hamilton from the pack of similar liberal arts institutions. Therefore, our identity as a college is rooted in the writing requirements.

The "Many Voices, One Hamilton" webpage explains, "learning at Hamilton is not a spectator sport! Students have opportunities to explore new ideas, challenge assumptions, pursue research — both independently and alongside faculty mentors — and demonstrate what they learn."

That being said, requirements suck. For me, doing community service to fill a requirement is soulless, while doing it on my own is enriching. Requirements spawn indignant students and leave them feeling restricted. However, the writing intensive requirement at Hamilton is not cumbersome. Students must pass three writing-intensive classes in their Hamilton career. Three! These do not need to be English-related courses. Students majoring in mathematics, history and different cultural studies can all find relevant classes under the writing-intensive banner. Writing is probably frustrating to numerically oriented math majors, but a mathematician from Hamilton who can clearly explain his logic is more valuable than a knowledgeable but inarticulate math major from another school.

I came from a high school that prided itself on its English program and was fairly confident in my writing skills upon graduating. I thought I could coast through my first semester Adventure Writing class easily enough, but I realized how wrong I was after my first essay was assaulted mercilessly with red ink. High school had built a stubborn complacency in my writing, which could only be broken by the detailed criticism one gets in a writing-intensive class. When the focus of a course is the writing itself, errors stand naked and must be addressed, corrected and learned from.

The word 'required' stirs up negative feelings, but the writing-intensive requirement needs to be fairly considered. The skills gained from the requirement outweigh the burden the requirement may place on some. The writing-intensive requirement sets Hamilton College apart from its peers and cultivates a necessary skill in students.

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Richard Hanna remains anchored to his beliefs

by Anderson Tuggle '14
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

DEMOCRACYWISE.SYR.EDU

When I saw that Richard Hanna, the Republican candidate for the House of Representatives in Clinton's district, was speaking on campus, I figured I would go listen. I did not expect much else besides a parroting of the talking points posited by most conservative candidates this election year: big government is an evil. Obama is shredding the Constitution and disregarding "family values." The socialist takeover of America has already begun.

When Mr. Hanna began to speak, however, he seemed less Glenn Beck and more Bob Dole. A conservative, no doubt, but one that demonstrated a civil respect to his opponents, and did not shut the door on compromise. His gravelly voice, filled with life experience, did not shout out in rage and try to pit the political battle as "us vs. them." Instead, he spoke genuinely about the concern he had for America's future, the debt and the lack of strong leadership in Washington.

Along the way, Hanna espoused several positions that would not fit the Republican litmus test, most clearly on controversial issues such as abortion, gay rights and the environment (I do not think I have ever seen a Republican as upfront about the reality of climate change as Mr. Hanna).

Of course there were plenty of places where, as a liberal, I disagreed with his viewpoints. Hanna seemed to cherish this democratic divide, though, not insult it. The larger take-away point for me was that I was seeing a true "right of center" candidate in a year when conservative fundamentalists seem to be the only option for the Republican party. My reaction was akin to seeing a dinosaur stroll past me in the park. Before this, I had a hard time believing that moderate Republicans still existed.

What of this larger situation, though? Why are so many Republican candidates voraciously conservative and dogmatic this year? The examples are plentiful in the political scene of senators and representatives shifting rightward or being replaced should they refuse to shift. Not only that, but the Democratic Party has retained a large number of centrist members to boot (e.g. Blanche Lincoln, Mary Landrieu). Take John McCain for example. The once famous "maverick" that would cross the aisle and criticize his own party has, after facing a tough opponent in his primary, turned into a rubber stamp for the right. So much for principled leadership. One could also look to Charlie Crist being exiled from the GOP or Mike Castle's loss last week to see this general progression.

This trend is probably best explained by voter anger and dissatisfaction with the tepidness of the economic recovery thus far. People are struggling, so they turn to the ideas that are the most drastically different from the status quo. The basic principles of the Tea Party have arisen out of these ideas. These activists are providing the fuel for the fire of the right-wing candidates.

For the record, I find nothing silly or trite about the Tea Party. People are right to vent their anger in a democratic manner. Their solutions, or lack thereof, are where I have a problem. They are too simplistic and contradictory: we need to rein in the deficit but lower all taxes. We want less government, but do not touch my Medicare, Social Security or defense spending. We are sick of regulations, unless they prevent gays, women, immigrants or minorities from having equal access to society. Ultimately, these "solutions" are ungovernable and will not be helpful in mitigating the tough years out of this economic crisis.

This brings me back to Richard Hanna. Yes, he certainly does agree with many of the Tea Party's fiscal positions, but at least he can say he would look to the center if need be. So kudos to Mr. Hanna for being anchored to his beliefs in a year when it would be politically popular to shift them rightwards.

2010 Getting past lame excuses and getting to the polls

by Kate Tummarello '11
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

One of my friends has a very straightforward set of standards for anyone she dates: He has to be good looking, he has to be able to read, and he has to have voted in the most recent election. Unfortunately, this last demand seriously limits her options. Chances are, if you don't meet that demand either, you've used one of these excuses and seriously need to reconsider your participation in the upcoming election.

Totally lame reason #5: I don't have to the time or energy to get informed.

We're all busy. Most Hamilton students take challenging courses and spend their free time balancing full extracurricular and social schedules. Maybe back in the dark age this would be a slightly more legitimate excuse. However, the advent of the Internet makes getting information on the issues at stake and candidates competing in the midterm elections a lot easier. Spend five fewer minutes reading "Texts From Last Night" and five more minutes reading the news, and you'll be on your way to being an informed voter in the 2010 elections. A good starting place is *The New York Times*' Politics page online (found at www.nytimes.com/politics).

Totally lame reason #4: This is just the midterm election. I'll vote in the next presidential election.

Every election matters, even if there's no iconic campaign poster to go along with it. Midterm elections are not usually as dramatic as presidential elections, but this doesn't mean they're less important. In addition to the 37 governors that will be elected in November, we will elect 37 Senators and 435 House members. While it's less sexy than having more than half the nation rally behind one person, electing members to Congress is deciding the composition of one of three branches of the federal government.

Totally lame reason #3: Registering to vote is too complicated.

Again, the Internet really invalidates this excuse. If you can figure out how to use Facebook, you can figure out how to access a voter registration form and the paperwork for an absentee ballot.

"It's easier than the housing lottery," said James S. Sherman Professor of Government Phil Klinkner.

Voter registration forms can be accessed at websites like www.rockthevote.com and The U.S. Election Assistance Commission's www.eac.gov. If you've already registered and need to obtain an absentee ballot, check out websites like www.longdistancevoter.org to find the forms for your state.

Totally lame reason #2: The issues don't affect me.

False. The issues that will be decided by the outcome of this election will affect every American citizen, from the hipsters in Opus to the Science Center-dwellers to the bros in the Farmhouse.

Are you concerned about the job market that awaits you once you graduate? Are you comforted by the fact that you can be covered by your parents' health insurance until you're 26? Do you care about federal and state funding for institutions of higher learning? Then vote, because these are the issues that will be affected by the upcoming election.

Totally lame reason #1: My vote doesn't matter.

I'm not going to sit here and promise that your one vote will determine the entire outcome of any election (a la Kevin Costner in the movie Swing Vote), because that won't happen. Hamilton College Democrats Co-President Becky Cairns '11 isn't afraid to admit that. "My one vote certainly won't determine the outcome of any election," admitted Cairns. "But it is more than just a symbolic act. Vote totals matter." According to Cairns, having your candidate win by a large margin or lose by a small margin is an equally important outcome of individuals casting their ballots.

To the other Hamilton Democrats Co-President, Olivia Waxman '11, voting is about taking advantage of an opportunity to be influential. While power is usually spread unevenly, Waxman explained, "On Election Day, it is 'one person, one vote,' and all voters in any given election are equal…By voting, I am electing to exercise my right to influence government on an equal basis with all other voters."

"We vote because it's a way for us to make a statement about ourselves," said Klinkner, who compared voting to wearing a sports team's t-shirt. "It's a statement about what we believe and what we value."

To Hamilton College Republicans President Will Eagan '11, voting has a more historically significant meaning. "To vote is to satisfy the antebellum meaning of America," said Eagan. To Eagan this meaning can be traced back to the Constitution, including "the liberty to think about how the state ought to function, how the people should pursue virtue and how to the limit of the power of the state."

So vote. Vote because you can. Vote because it matters. Vote because people like my friend will totally judge you if you don't.

Thumbs Up

Freakishly good performances from the Hamilton sports teams: Well, not you football. Keep trying though. Someday you'll get those 3 wins.

Ping pong vs. Colgate: Make your club legitimate Hamilton group and f*ck 'em up!!!

Fire inspections: Milbank is a tinderbox that's just a match away from destruction.

Annex laser tag: Dave Eng finds a way to bring that paintball spirit indoors.

Thumbs Down

Eat local food challenge: You close the pub, make me go to the dark-side and hide a godawful country crooner... The "challenge" part was really supposed to be more of a metaphor.

Aerial photography...of the light-side. The dark-side was obscurred by a large smoke cloud.

Farmhouse kids complaining about WHCL: This is what we like to call "the catch" to living in a sweet house. Quit yer b*tchin'

Impossible trivia night questions: Stop drinking during Jeopardy, Paul Ryan.

Who Cares?

Anything, anything, anything on the events calendar

Organic Chemistry: Considering that career change from Doctor to Birthday Clown yet?

Psych people surveys: If I can figure out what you're trying to study in the first question, you're not doing it right.

John Zogby gives a lecture: Polls show 98 percent of attendees were required to do so for a class.

Clarkson Business School info table: Take your life and career one step further into the woods.

by Greg Jordan '11 and Lesley Ryder '11

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

LCD Soundsystem and Sleigh Bells this Friday

PRETTYMUCHAMAZING.COM

James Murphy, the frontman for LCD Soundsystem

by Taylor Coe '13 and Lily Gillespie '12
Arts & Entertainment Editors

This Friday, in the first big concert of the year, the Campus Activities Board is proud to bring LCD Soundsystem and Sleigh Bells to campus. Both have a big and unique sound for two relatively small acts.

LCD Soundsystem is the brainchild of James Murphy, who not only serves as the band's frontman but also as the co-founder of DFA Records, the band's label. LCD has had a presence in the music world since 2002 with their debut single "Losing My Edge." The band has received critical acclaim for all of their albums and was nominated in both 2006 and 2008 for Grammy Awards in the Electronica category.

Murphy began his musical career early as a member of the band Falling Man when he was only 18. At 29, he founded DFA Records with Tim Goldsworthy and Jonathan Galkin. The label has produced albums for multiple groups and is also credited with the remix of M.I.A's "Paper Planes" heard on the soundtrack of the Academy Award-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire."

LCD Soundsystem's music might lightly be characterized as dance music. Murphy's songs, however, transcend any popular understanding of dance music. Most of his songs stretch far past traditional pop song lengths—some of them stretching to ten or eleven minutes. Murphy has mastered the art of writing propulsive, danceable music…that is not dance music. Songs like "Someone Great" and "All My Friends" off of their second album, *Sound of Silver,* are wonderful, rhythmic treatments of difficult subjects.

Murphy and his six-piece band will share the stage with opening act Sleigh Bells. The band, based out of Brooklyn, is actually the duo of Derek Miller and Alexis Krauss. The two bandmates come from wildly different backgrounds; Miller coming from hard rock/metal outfit Poison the Well and Krauss from teen-pop girl group Rubyblue. The combination of sounds in Sleigh Bells has resulted in something just as cheerfully manic as their name implies. This marriage of music—poppy, crunchy, insane—has consistently resisted description.

Both LCD Soundsystem and Sleigh Bells represent Hamilton and CAB's continued efforts to bring popular indie groups with growing followings to campus, and the performances are sure to impress. The show will be in the Tolles Pavilion this Friday, Oct. 1, with Sleigh Bells going on at 8 p.m. and LCD Soundsystem following at 9:10 p.m.

Songs to listen for on friday night:

LCD Soundsystem

LCD Soundsystem

WWW.LIB.WASHINGTON.EDU

1. "Daft Punk is Playing at My House"
2. "Losing My Edge"
3. "Yeah"

This Is Happening

WWW.WIKIPEDIA.COM

1. "Dance Yrself Clean"
2. "Drunk Girls"
3. "I Can Change"
4. "You Wanted a Hit"
5. "Home"

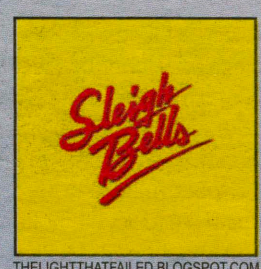
Sleigh Bells

Sound of Silver

WWW.ANALOGUEMAGAZINE.COM

1. "Someone Great"
2. "All My Friends"
3. "Get Innocuous!"
4. "North American Scum"

Treats



THELIGHTTHATFAILED.BLOGSPOT.COM

1. "Crown on the Ground"
2. "Rill Rill"
3. "Infinity Guitars"
4. "Tell 'Em"
5. "Riot Rhythm"

Park outshines Wolf and Cahoone

by Taylor Coe '13
Arts & Entertainment Editor

I've always felt that the best songwriters are the ones who understand the skeleton of a song. They don't write songs for mood or tone or with heavy orchestral flourishes in mind. These men and women fashion their music according to a strong inner structure; Texan singer-songwriter Guy Clark loved the image of a slow-working carpenter—an image that could more or less be applied to the way that Clark worked over his songs.

For many performers the ultimate test of enduring songcraft is acoustic performances. The MTV Unplugged television series, more than any mainstream venue, has proved the enduring power of solid songwriting. All one needs to do is compare Nirvana's Unplugged set with the set of the thrash-metal band Korn. Korn's music, stripped down to basics, sounds empty and hollow, where the acoustic setting does not prevent Cobain from still holding a powerful grip on the audience.

Sea Wolf's latest album, *White Water, White Bloom*, is a fine, beautiful album. Thanks to producer Mike Mogis (Bright Eyes, Rilo Kiley), the album has a earthy, timeless sound. But the songs—stripped down at the recent Acoustic Coffeehouse to only leader Alex Church and his guitar—lack the carefully orchestrated, rich sound of the tracks off the record. Even Church admitted before playing "I Made a Resolution" off Sea Wolf's second album, *Get to the River Before it Runs Too Low*, that "the song sounds better on the record." And Church is right; the song *does* sound better on the record.

It would be easy to insult his set by simply dismissing the set as bad and neglect explaining exactly why. The truth of the matter exists partly in the fact that the performance on Sept. 23 was just past the midway point of Church's first solo tour. Prior to this tour, Church has never publicly performed Sea Wolf songs without the backing power of the full five-piece band. Church himself knows that the music sounds odd all on its own; he did not write the music for an acoustic coffeehouse setting. Church wrote the music for concert venues with the full, five-piece Sea Wolf. So divested of their full arrangements, Church's songs sound brittle and untested.

Church's second opening act, Sera Cahoone, also seemed to struggle in an acoustic coffeehouse setting. Unlike Church, however, her songs were written for such a locale, her last album recorded mostly with her voice and acoustic guitar. The fact that a few years ago, Cahoone was primarily a drummer, begs to be noted. Although it would be easy to read her transformation into a singer-songwriter as a step in the right direction, I resist looking at it this way after the concert. Her music was simplistic and riddled with clichés; the energy and vitality that she found in drumming for an act like Carissa's Wierd does not appear in her acoustic performance. Her grasp of the guitar was proficient in the sense that a rhythm guitarist must be proficient to play in a five or six-piece band. Her songs were written without a clear skeleton in mind.

ALL PHOTOS BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

Above, Alex Church (left) and Patrick Park (right) play the last song of the night together.

Cahoone failed to impress the audience.

The sad truth of the coffeehouse is that opener Patrick Park stole the show. Park is, in the best and worst sense of the phrase, a coffeehouse artist. Park writes the lovably quirky songs common among the acoustic elite and performs them with a fine stage presence. Phrases like "tobacco skin" and "tongue-tied talker" jump out from his songs, leashed to his mellow voice, just barely breaking on the low notes into a gravel and grit. Wonderful though Park was, I could not help but feel that he was going nowhere quickly. Three albums into his career and approaching middle age, Park has been eclipsed by artists less admirable like Church and Cahoone (a friend since childhood). At one point, Cahoone was even the drummer in Park's band. But Park understands the workmanship of a song. It's working on a song's framework like a carpenter working on a house.

Brass quintet to play Wellin Hall

by Allison Eck '12
MANAGING EDITOR

Sassy and brassy sounds will fill Wellin Hall this weekend as the American Brass Quintet (ABQ) – one of the world's premiere chamber ensembles – takes the stage Friday at 8 p.m. The group celebrates 50 years of expert music-making with its 2009-2010 season and is currently in residence at The Julliard School and the Aspen Music Festival. As one of the most revered brass ensembles of our time, the ABQ regularly commissions new works by burgeoning contemporary composers.

In this respect, the ABQ has a special connection to Hamilton; the group once commissioned a piece by alumna Melinda Wagner '79, winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize in music. The ABQ's performances are not limited to modern compositions, however; the ABQ maintains a strong connection to Renaissance works. Because the brass quintet has not always been a hot commodity in the classical music arena (the contemporary form was popularized in the 1940s), the ABQ strives to refurbish the brass quintet with a rich repertoire in the style of the traditional string quartet.

WWW.AMERICANBRASSQUINTET.ORG

Clockwise from left: Kevin Cobb, Raymond Mase, David Wakefield, John Rojak and Michael Powell of the American Brass Quintet, to perform Friday.

The top brass quintets in the country all serve different purposes. The Canadian Brass, another household name, aims to entertain.

"Each group has a very different personality," Associate Professor of Music (and conductor of Hamilton's Brass Ensemble) Heather Buchman said. For a taste of the ABQ's personality, check out the YouTube video of their recording of "GLAST Prelude Op. 12," a piece by Norman Glasser dedicated to the recent launch of NASA's Gamma-Ray Large Area Space Telescope (GLAST).

People who haven't experienced brass quintets before should know that they function differently from other ensembles, including orchestral brass sections.

"It involves communication between equal parts and individual artistry," said Buchman. "It that sense it's close to solo playing." In other words, no instrument in the group takes on a dominant role – each player is encouraged to be a leader as well as a follower.

The ABQ will perform a number of works Friday, including a Renaissance piece by Josquin DuPres and several 20th century selections. You won't want to miss the robust and elegant tunes that emanate from this internationally-renowned group.

F.I.L.M. Presents:

Along the Tracks: Explorations in Central New York

WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

A Photographic Presentation by Photographer Sylvia de Swaan

De Swaan is currently the Scholar-in-Residence at Hamilton and has taught at Hamilton before.

Sunday, Oct. 3

2 p.m. in the Bradford Auditorium of Kirner-Johnson

The Emerson Gallery Proudly Welcomes the Monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery

The Tibetan monks will create a mandala, a religious sand sculpture, to illustrate the transience of life

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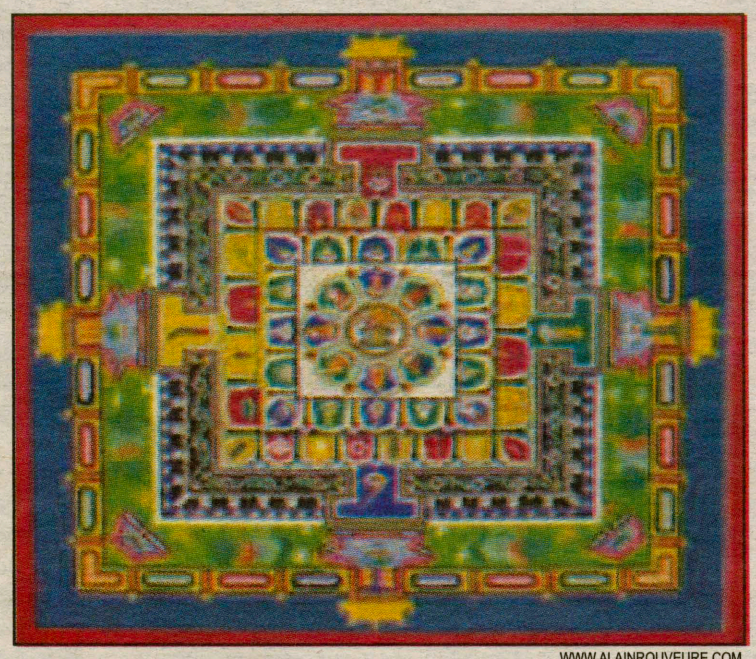


WWW.ALAINROUVEURE.COM

Weekly Charts

MUSIC
(billboard.com)

TOP SONGS

1. Bruno Mars— "Just the Way You Are"
2. Eminem feat. Rihanna —"Love the Way You Lie"
3. Rihanna— "Only Girl (In the World)"
4. Katy Perry—"Teenage Dream"
5. Usher feat. Pitbull— "DJ Got Us Fallin' Love"

TOP ALBUMS

1. Linkin Park— *A Thousand Suns*
2. Trey Songz— *Passion, Pain & Pleasure*
3. Eminem—*Recovery*
4. Jamey Johnson—*The Guitar Song*
5. Robert Plant—*Band of Joy*

MOVIES
(imdb.com)

1. *Wall Street: Money Sleeps*
2. *Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole*
3. *The Town*
4. *Easy A*
5. *You Again*

BOOKS
(New York Times "Best Sellers")

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo,* by Stieg Larsson
2. *The Girl Who Played With Fire,* by Stieg Larsson
3. *Little Bee,* by Chris Cleave
4. *Half Broke Horses,* by Jeanette Walls
5. *Cutting for Stone,* by Abraham Verghese

PAPERBACK NON-FICTION

1. *Eat, Pray, Love,* by Elizabeth Gilbert
2. *Three Cups of Tea,* by Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin
3. *Traveling with Pomegranates,* by Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Monk Taylor
4. *The Glass Castle,* by Jeannette Walls
5. *My Horizontal Life,* by Chelsea Handler

Bienvenue à Montreal, Fall Break destination 2010

by Hadley Keller '12
Features Editor

Not just a weekend, but not quite a break, Fall Recess can prove to be an awkward amount of time off from classes – too long to hang out on the Hill, but not long enough to warrant a trip home for many students. So last October, my friends and I packed up our bags and set off for Montreal. At just a four hour drive from Hamilton, the beautiful European-feeling city is just as close as New York City or Boston. Why go home when you can take a mini-vacation instead?

Thanks to one friend's expertise at online coupon hunting (visit Travelocity to find your own travel deals), we stayed in Montreal's Hilton Garden Inn, conveniently located right in the center of the city. Another great alternative for students to the pricier hotel is a hostel.

Some affordable options include Jazz Hostel, conveniently located on the bustling Rue Ontario or the Auberge Alternative, which features a great breakfast. No matter where you stay, though, it is unlikely you'll spend much time in your room, as there is so much to see and do throughout the city.

One of the things my friends and I enjoyed the most was the food. The city, especially Vielle Montréal, or the Old City, is francophone, and, accordingly, many restaurants feature traditional, mouth-watering French food.

We enjoyed sandwiches on baguettes while shopping in the Old City and, one night, dined at the well known and well reviewed Boris Bistro restaurant, where we sampled everything from steak-frites to lobster risotto.

While the food can get expensive, there are plenty of more casual dining options (such as Vallier, on Rue McGill) that offer dishes just as delicious for fewer "loonies" (Canadian money — don't forget to exchange before you head out shopping!).

Additionally, all of the restaurants in Montreal offer a wide selection of specialty wines and homemade beers, and since the drinking age is 18, most students should be free to enjoy them.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VISUALTOURIST.COM

The nightlife in Montreal is just as exceptional as the food, although vastly different from what we're used to on the Hill. At the heart of the city is Canada's McGill University, so there are many college students in the downtown area.

In Montreal, a typical college night out does not involve dancing at a Bundy party before catching a Jitney downtown; it usually involves a stop at a bar before heading to one (or a few) of Montreal's nightclubs. There are countless bars along Rue Crescent and Rue Saint-Laurent. Thursdays Bar was a mix of college students and a slightly older crowd, while Ziggie's Pub had a more laid-back atmosphere.

If you feel like dancing, head to The Plateau, a Latin dance club, or for a more modern clubbing experience, visit Seven (recommended highly by McGill students), Electric Avenue (a cool underground spot which played great dance music), or Opera. If you want to hear a great concert, check what's going on at the Metropolis. And if you're craving late night Diner B while away from the Hill, try Chez Claudette, open 24 hours on weekends.

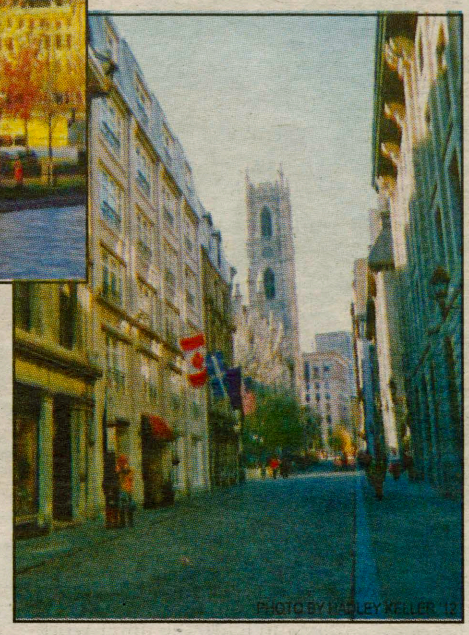


PHOTO BY HADLEY KELLER '12

Montreal also offers a wide array of attractions to see during the day – much more than can possibly be squeezed into a four-day vacation. If the weather is nice, ride a BIXI along the river. The rental bikes cost just a few dollars an hour and can be rented and returned from a machine, just like Paris' Vélib system.

Another great outdoor spot is Montreal's Botanical Gardens, located on Rue Sherbrooke East. And a trip to the city would not be complete without a stop at one of its great museums. Visit the Musée des Beaux Arts (Rue Sherbrooke Ouest) for traditional pieces, or, if you're a fan of more modern work, head to the Musée d'Art Contemporain (Rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest).

If you're not feeling too tourist-y, spend the day strolling along the streets of the Old City; stop in the famous vintage shops or pop into Juliette et Chocolat (on Rue Saint-Denis) for a delicious crêpe.

No matter what your interests are, you're sure to find something you love about this historic Canadian city. So grab some friends, pack your bags and head north of the border for a true Fall Break adventure.

Trustee Corner: Barry Seaman '67

by Nick Stagliano '11
Senior Staff Writer

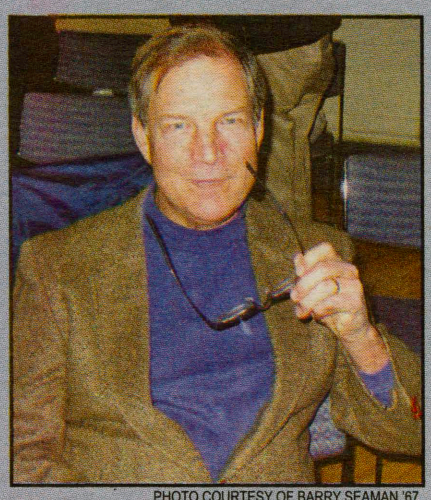


PHOTO COURTESY OF BARRY SEAMAN '67

Few trustees in higher education institutions can say that they've experienced contemporary college life first-hand. Barry Seaman '67, on the other hand, has lived for several weeks not only in a dorm room at Hamilton, but also at several of the dozen other institutions that he studied and observed first-hand while researching his book *Binge: Campus Life in an Age of Disconnection and Excess* (John Wiley & Sons, 2005).

The impetus to write *Binge* came from Seaman's work on Hamilton's Board of Trustees. "I kept returning to the College for the board meetings and other visits, and meeting with students I began to realize that this place is a hell of a lot different than what it was like in 1967," Seaman said. "After I retired, I was asked to be Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, and I thought it would help me do a better job as a trustee to live in a dorm and see life through students' eyes."

After working out the details with Hamilton's 18th president, Eugene M. Tobin, Seaman moved into a room in the Rogers Estate. Over the course of the two weeks, he attended meetings of a variety of student organizations and talked extensively with students, faculty and the College's administrators. After writing a lengthy memo to his fellow board members summarizing his experiences, he decided that exploring student life was something worth exploring further – and not just at Hamilton.

Seaman chose twelve institutions that ran the gamut from big to small, public to private, north to south and east to west – including Harvard University, Middlebury College, Pomona College, McGill University, the University of Virginia and Stanford University. After several weeks spent on each of the campuses, Seaman concluded that despite differences in geography and size, the student culture among these dozen campuses was remarkably similar, a conclusion that became the basis of *Binge*.

While writing *Binge*, Seaman drew on his several decades' experience as a prolific and well-respected journalist. After two years of active duty in the United States Navy, Seaman began working in 1971 at *Life* magazine as a business writer – pigeonholed, in a way, because of his Master's of Business Administration degree from Columbia University. After a brief stint as a researcher and reporter at *Fortune*, he returned for the last four months of *Life*'s existence before joining the reporting arm of *Time* magazine, "thus launching myself into my career as a *Time* correspondent."

For the next three decades, Seaman worked in New York, Chicago, Bonn, Germany and Detroit before moving to Washington, D.C., to cover the State Department and, later, the White House. The last story Seaman broke while in Washington was about Nancy Reagan's use of an astrologer to try to influence her husband's schedule. "It was a good time to leave town," Seaman said. Seaman spent the last several years of his career in New York, where he served as Deputy Chief of Correspondents and Special Projects Editor for *Time*, before he retired in 2001.

It was while covering the White House for *Time* that Seaman was visited in Washington by Joe Anderson, the College's then Vice President for Communications and Development, who asked if Seaman might like to get reinvolved with Hamilton. "It was kind of like being recruited by the CIA. I felt like I had been tapped," Seaman said. After serving for a year on the Alumni Council, he was elected an Alumni Trustee in 1998, a position he held until he was elected a Charter Trustee in 1997.

Of the influence of his research for *Binge* on his work as a trustee, Seaman said, "it made me comfortable about dealing with some of the issues that arose especially in discussions about student affairs."

"One of the things I concluded [while researching *Binge*] was that, first of all, the culture that surrounded alcohol is now significantly different from the environment I remember. It's not that we didn't drink," Seaman said, "but we didn't have people routinely transferred to the hospital for alcohol detox – which is now regular not just at Hamilton, but all over. And I concluded at the end of this research that the 21-year drinking age is part of the problem."

In 2004, with former Middlebury president John McCardell, Jr., and Bill Goodell, Seaman founded Choose Responsibility (www.chooseresponsibility.org). With the Amethyst Initiative, which has denounced current drinking age policies as ineffective, and other initiatives, Choose Responsibility is working to, in Seaman's words, "topple what conventional wisdom seems to have accepted as nationally entrenched policy, ardently defended by a network of powerful supporters, from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, to the entire insurance industry."

Seaman, who is now President of Choose Responsibility, said, "Some say that we will never win this battle, because our argument is too complicated for politicians to reduce to a credible "sound bite'"that won't draw the ire and opposition of our powerful opponents. I believe that the ground is shifting, however, as the logic of our position sinks in among voters and provides increasing support for public officials to question current law openly. As I often say in debates, if all we do is lower the drinking age, we won't solve the problem; but until we lower the drinking age, we will never solve it."

FROM WHERE I SIT
HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

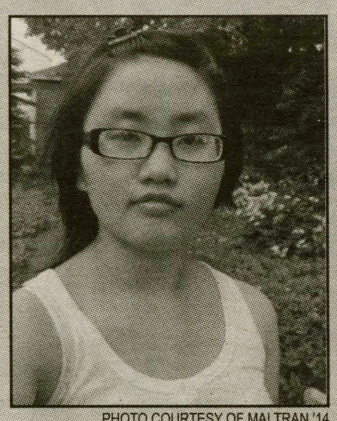


PHOTO COURTESY OF MAI TRAN '14

by Mai Tran '14
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

Since I arrived a month ago, I've been thinking about what I want from Hamilton College. It's increasingly difficult to think about it only from an academic standpoint because I want so much more. I admit though, I need to invest more time into thinking explicitly.

Hamilton College emphasizes the art of writing effectively, communicating fluently and thinking for oneself. The liberal arts background provides students with broad areas of study and a great open-curriculum so we students can choose what we like best.

As a first year, I love that ability to choose. Why?
To say that I don't know for sure what I want to do with my life would be a little bit embarrassing, yet I need to just admit that I have absolutely no freaking clue what my future will be like. I'm pretty sure some of the other members of the Class of 2014 students are as nervous and clueless as I am. At least, I hope they are!

My situation might be different from yours, but for all human beings, emotions can be perplexing and can sometimes make our hearts flutter and our determinations waver. I know what interests me and what I want to learn. I also know some of the things I want to accomplish before I'm 30, but I don't know how to get from here all the way to there.

So what do I want from Hamilton College?

On my to-do-list I have strengthening my weakness of getting nervous around people and expanding my academic knowledge.

Everyone knows that all classes at Hamilton are hard in their own way, but for me, my lack of communication and writing skills makes my workload that much harder. Because I speak and write in a different language at home all the time, my bilingual thinking makes things complicated here on the Hill, socially and academically. What might be considered easy for one student is tremendously hard for me, but I'm going to work on eliminating my difficulties, or at least lessening the hardship, by interacting more with people and of course, studying more.

One often hears the saying "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." I do want to learn more about the American culture, a culture that I feel I must comprehend to assimilate because I live within its boundaries.

Yet I also want to master Chinese and immerse myself in the depths of that country's ancient history of dynastic rulers. Learning Chinese is the first step to reading all those historical books that intrigue me. What a nerd, I know.

Or I could say that I want to learn how to write a play but that would be a complete lie. I really want to write a screenplay and learn the inner workings of a camera so that I can then create the images, direct the film and deliver messages of cultural differences I feel are important on screen.

I would go crazy and be the first one to sign up if Hamilton offered a course about Korea and the current Korean Wave. If you don't know what the Korean Wave is, you should Google it. Let me warn you first though, be ready to get hooked. I find the topic so interesting that I can talk about it for hours and hours.

My interests are different from other students here on the Hill. It would best of the best if my Hamilton experience opens my eyes and broadens my narrow view so I can find my ultimate life-long goals or never-ending passion.

From where I sit, people can see that I'm vacillating amidst diverse cultures. I steer towards one more than another because I haven't found the balance yet. It'll take some time, but I do have four years at Hamilton to find my strengths, my weaknesses, my interests and passions and definitely learn how to merge the cultures that interest me into one fulfilling life.

I can start here at Hamilton and make my way over there, wherever there might be.

From Where I Sit ***is a column dedicated to the international voices of Hamilton's campus. If you are an international student and are interested in contributing a column, contact Barbara Britt-Hysell (bbritthy@hamilton.edu)***

What's Brewing at The Little Pub

by Carolina Geiger '14
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

It is 8 p.m. on a Tuesday night; the Hamilton campus is generally quiet, except for one building: The Little Pub.

While some students are working in the library or throwing a frisbee on the Dunham lawn, the pub is packed at its highest capacity as anxious Hamilton students compete at one of the most prestigious events on campus: Trivia Night. John Kennedy '14 described, "It's really intense; everyone is on edge waiting to hear their teams' scores."

PHOTO BY JASON ELEK '14

Visitors to The Little Pub can choose from a variety of draughts while enjoying an intimate atmosphere.

It is easy to get swept away by the excitement of trivia and overlook where the event is actually taking place. In addition to being Trivia Night's host, The Little Pub is also one of the four main dining options at Hamilton.

The Little Pub first opened on Feb. 2, 1996. It was named after George F. Little II '71. The Pub is decorated with a dance floor, pool and foosball tables, an electronic dartboard, a large-screen television and a fireplace.

Although the most popular event there is Tuesday Trivia Night, the Pub also hosts Senior Night every other Thursday, Happy Hour every Friday from 4-7 p.m. and a monthly entertainment.

Although most students pass by the Pub on a daily basis, no one really knows when to go, what to eat and, most importantly, what to drink, since it is the only location on campus that serves alcohol.

There is pub lunch every Monday-Friday from 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.. In addition, the Pub is open Tuesday-Thursday from 8pm-1am, Friday from 4 p.m.-2 a.m. and Saturday from 8 p.m.-2 a.m..

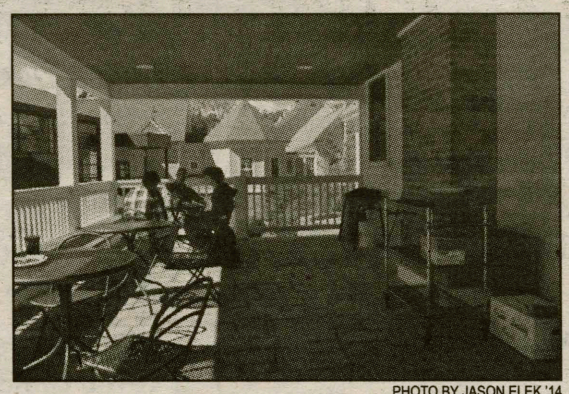


PHOTO BY JASON ELEK '14

The back porch is a great place to relax.

The Hill Card is accepted only during pub lunch; at any other time you can only pay with cash.

Pub food is catered by Bon Appetit, but they offer a narrower selection of food than Commons and McEwen, such as pre-catered sandwiches. So why choose to eat at the Pub? According to sophomore Stephanie Hudon, "It's a different Hamilton experience. The space is not anything you can find anywhere else."

One thing that sets the Pub apart is the beer. What The Little Pub lacks in variety of food, it gains with its variety of beer. Chad Marshall, the pub manager explains, "We always try to keep at least one seasonal beer. Right now it is Octoberfest." Some of the all-season beers are Coors Light, Bass Ale, Magic Hat #9, Rogue, Dead Guy Ale (which should not be judged by its name; apparently it is quite good), New Castle Nut Brown and Woodchuck Draft, among many others.

If you are a heavy drinker, there is always Guiness; if you're a light drinker there is Blue Moon. And everyone's overall favorite seems to be Dale's Pale Ale. However, junior Sarah Song reports, "It's always fun, even if you don't drink...[get a]pitcher of root beer!" So, even if you are underage or do not drink, the atmosphere and attractions are still worth a visit (now that you know when to go)!

Logic Puzzle #1011.2: Fallcoming Transportation

by Russell Marcus
PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The Puzzle
Three Hamilton College students are hosting three alumni during Fallcoming. The students and alumni must go from the Chapel, where they are listenting to a lecture, to the Sadove Student Center, where they will attend a reception. Since the distance is too far for the alumni to walk, they will use a golf cart to transport all six of them. Unfortunately, they have only a single golf cart, which seats only two people (including the driver.) All students can drive the cart, but only one of the alumni can drive it. The alumni like to talk to the students, but they do not like to share. So, if there are both students and alumni (of our group of six) in either the Chapel or the Sadove Student Center, there must be at least as many students as alumni. That is, at all times, there must be at least as many students as alumni in both the Chapel and the Sadove Student Center, whenever there is at least one of each.

Question
How can the students transport themselves and the alumni to the reception?

Rules
Solutions, with full descriptions of the travel, to Puzzle #1011.2: Fallcoming Transportation may be sent to puzzle@hamilton.edu, or, via campus mail, to Russell Marcus, Philosophy Department. Make sure to include your contact information with your solution. A winner will be chosen among those who submit satisfactory solutions. Any one may play the puzzle, but only current Hamilton College students may win prizes.

Prizes
Prize winners receive a t-shirt or mug from Lulasail, home of the best philosophy t-shirts on the web.

The Deadline for Puzzle #1011.2 is Monday, Oct. 4, at 4pm. All entries must be received by that time. Visit our website: www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/HCPuzzles

Bachelor & Bachelorette of the Week

Courtney Flint '11

PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY FLINT '11

Hometown: *Highland Park, New Jersey.*
Major: *History.*
Turn On? *Humor, skills on the dance floor.*
Turn Off? *Smoking, arrogance.*
What is your worst habit? *Drunk texting.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *The Co-Op. You have to work for it.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two celebrities which would you pick and why?
Billy Joel and Taylor Swift.
If you were God, what would be the first thing you'd do to the world? *It would always be sunny in Clinton, NY.*
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense? *Cutting in line for Diner B.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
"Have it your way."
What movie genre best describes you? *Dramedy.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?
"I like your shirt." I'm serious, it worked.
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
Teleportation. No more gas money!
What is your hidden talent? *I can wiggle my ears. Without touching them.*
What is your spirit animal and why?
A penguin, specifically Happy Feet.
If you were a cold cut, which would you be and why?
I'm vegetarian. Does tofu count?
If you were any social space what would it be and why?
The Hub. Who doesn't love dancing on the bar?
If you could join one group on campus what would it be and why? *CAB, but I'm not hipster enough.*
If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why? *Humans vs. Zombies. Enough said.*
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
You tell me.
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day who would it be?
Bolita, the sushi lady because I've always wanted to learn how to make it!
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it which would you choose?
The hard alcohol policy, oh wait...
What would you give a thumbs up?
The streaking team.
What would you give a thumbs down?
What happened to Nacho bar in McEwen?
Who would you say is your campus crush?
Mike Williams.
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
Chill. That still counts, right?
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room?
My American Gladiators *soundtrack.*

Duncan Fraser '12

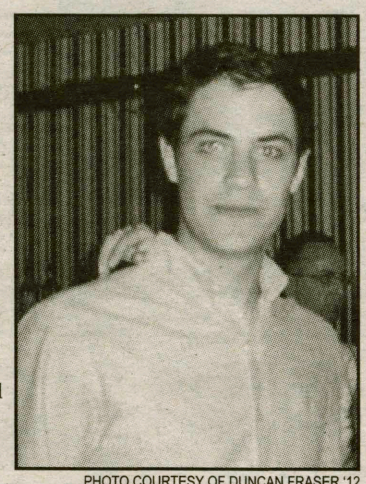


PHOTO COURTESY OF DUNCAN FRASER '12

Hometown: *Wellesley, MA (~15 minutes outside of Boston).*
Major: *History.*
Turn On? *Tearing up the dance floor.*
Turn Off? *"Can you play that new Ke$ha song?"*
What is your worst habit?
Music too loud, too often.
If you were a dorm which would you be and why?
Eels... have you seen that porch?
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two celebrities which would you pick and why? *David Byrne and Grace Slick, "Burning Down the House" meets "White Rabbit."*
If you were God, what would be the first thing you'd do to the world? *End cancer, no one likes that. Oh, and re-instate Chris Hill as a professor at Hamilton. I mean, his email was chill@hamilton.edu.*
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense? *Campus Safety leaving their unattended vehicles running while parked outside of buildings.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
"Johnnie Walker, the finest Scotch Whiskey of a great age." I've got Scottish roots and being 20 is great.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?
I'm not sure if it was a pick up line but, "Want to go half-and-half on a baby?" has come up in conversation...
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
Instant travel; I could have breakfast in Boston, lunch in Tokyo and dinner in France.
What is your hidden talent? *I'm a gypsy whisperer.*
If you were any social space what would it be and why?
The pre-renovation ELS basement—its vintage Hamilton.
If you were a cold cut, which would you be and why?
Sopressata, the king of cold cuts.
If you could join one group on campus what would it be and why? *Rugby—play hard, party hard.*
If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why? *I think the Cooking Club needs to be resurrected before we get rid of any organizations.*
What is your spirit animal and why?
The bat, it is nocturnal and has awful vision.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it which would you choose? *Quiet hours.*
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day what would it be? *The Cider Mill people make mean donuts and cider. (They might as well be part of the Hamilton community.)*
What would you give a thumbs up?
The OG Dankwich from the Little Pub.
What would you give a thumbs down?
The Yankees and campus food on the weekends.
Who would you say is your campus crush? *The golf course.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Luisa Briones, no doubt*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Its tie between the Kermit the Frog poster and handle-less ping-pong paddles.*

Do we need to import food? Bon Appétit's Eat Local Challenge provides an alternative

by Emily Gerston '11
News Editor

Your mother told you to eat your fruits and vegetables growing up, but did she tell you to eat your local fruits and veggies? Bon Appétit wants to make sure you do the latter, and hosted the Eat Local Challenge last Tuesday in order to raise awareness of local food. Bon Appétit was challenged to prepare lunch using only food grown within 150 miles of campus, including food grown by the Hamilton College Community Farm. "I think it exposes students to local food, which is important, especially with all these food recalls," said Patrick Raynard, general manager of Bon Appétit at Hamilton. "It still highlights local farmers and vendors."

Eating local doesn't just sustain local business; it can have serious environmental and health impacts on an everyday basis. According to an article on EatLocalChallenge.com, locally grown food is fresher, more nutritious and more environmentally friendly because it uses fewer fossil fuels than imported or shipped food. "Fossil fuels are very limited [when eating local] as compared to bringing things across the country," said Raynard. "They're not traveling on a boat or a train to get here."

For Alex Dotson '11, the difference was palpable. "Oh my God, this is the best apple I've ever had in my life!" she said upon biting into one of the apples proved by North Star Orchards in Westmoreland. "It's amazing! I love the Eat Local Challenge!"

The Eat Local Challenge exists to raise awareness of the benefits of eating local food, but Bon Appétit strives to provide local food throughout the year. "Our goal is 30 percent [local food], but it varies at different times of the year," said Raynard, estimating that currently about 40 percent of food at Hamilton is locally produced. "I'd love to one year be able to say 80-90 percent [of our food is local]."

Executive Chef Reuben Haag added that Bon Appétit's goal is never to fall below 20 percent, regardless of the season. However, students may not always know that they are eating locally grown food, since Bon Appétit does not always tag the food as local in dining halls. "As items become more standard rather than exceptions, we stop labeling it," explained Haag. For example, most produce in the dining halls now is locally grown, but it is not necessarily marked as such.

At Hamilton, the Community Farm often supplies local food. "In general, we try to support eating local through the year through farm stands, selling to Bon Appétit and food deliveries," explained Christine Roback '12, who is involved in the community farm. "We try to get students involved, and to get them to come down to the farm to see how food is grown and produced organically."

In addition to the food supplied by the Community Garden, Bon Appéetit supports local agriculture by regularly purchasing food from local farms. "We've signed up approximately 70 local vendors since August," said Raynard; these numbers are in addition to local vendors previously signed up to provide food to Hamilton.

Although Dotson said she supports the idea of eating locally to support local businesses and protect the environment, she said she is not always able to support it with her own purchases. "I buy what's at the supermarket… Really, I'm on a college student budget. I need to keep it cheap."

Wes Hughes '11 supported Bon Appétit's efforts to incorporate local food. "I'm pretty sold on the concept. I just learned how to cook, and it's given me a new perspective. The difference in having local products is huge," he commented. Much like Dotson, Hughes also felt budgetary and accessibility constraints. "If given the choice, I eat local, but I don't seek it out necessarily.

Accessibility was Raynard's goal with the Eat Local Challenge. "It's great because you don't have to worry about showing a Hamilton ID [to participate]… it's our chance to expose our community to the ingredients that are around," he said. "I think it's very important people know where their food comes from. Today, what you see is what you get."

PHOTO BY KATE TUMARELLO '11

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL ARROYO '14

Alex Tisme '13, Michael Arroyo '14, Stephanie Ingrahmn '13 and Kristen Forgrave '12 (left to right).

HEAG members rally, get arrested at eco-protest in D.C.

by Michael Arroyo '14
Science & Tech. Contributor

Last weekend, several members of HEAG went to Washington D.C. to attend the Appalachia Rising confernce. Below is HEAG member Michael Arroyo's response to questions about his experiences at the event.

What were the goals of the Appalachia Rising conference?

Appalachia Rising was a conference held in Washington D.C. to raise awareness about mountaintop removal, which is a mining practice, and how detrimental it has become for our environment. Roughy 1,000 people gathered together for a day of protest to fight for an issue they felt strongly about.

Why did you (and other Hamilton students) feel that it was important to attend?

Five Hamilton students, Stephanie Ingraham '13, Alex Tisme '13, Will Gowen '11, Michael Arroyo '14 and Kristin Forgrave '12 from Hamilton's environmental group, HEAG, were able to make the trip to D.C. It takes one person to make a difference, and being informed on this issue and knowing that one is able to affect change encouraged me to let my voice be heard.

see ***Protest****, page 14*

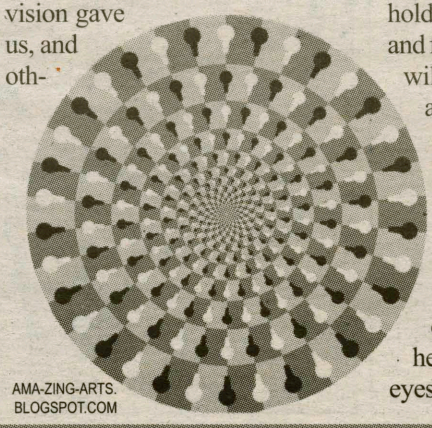
Do aliens see what we see?

Professor Mark Changizi discusses why our visual system works the way it does, why optical illusions confuse our brains and why we can so easily learn to read

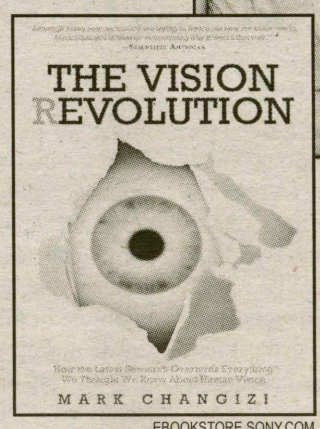
by Julia Litzky '12
Science & Technology Editor

Evolutionary neurobiologist Dr. Mark Changizi's lecture on Monday, Sept. 27, was aimed at answering the question "Do aliens see what we see?" Changizi, who is an assistant professor of cognitive science at Renesselar Polytechnic Institute, focused on how and why human vision has developed the way it has – why we have forward vision, why optical illusions confuse our brains and how language and writing relate to recognizable visual images. By understanding why our vision is as it is, he postulated whether an alien species would have developed similar vision.

Mammals' forward-facing eyes have long confused biologists because they reduce our range of vision from 360 degrees to a much narrower field. The going theory had been that this forward-facing vision gave us, and other mammals with similar visual fields, better depth perception. However, our depth perception is still fairly acute with one eye closed.


AMA-ZING-ARTS.BLOGSPOT.COM

Changizi suggests that the true reason that we have forward-facing vision is that it allows us to see through foliage in a forest. Small mammals do not need such vision, because their eyes are not spaced far enough apart to allow them to see through leaves. However, larger mammals, like humans, have eyes that are spaced farther apart, and the crossover of visual fields that our forward-facing eyes provide allow our brains to make the objects close to us translucent. For example, if you hold a finger up close to your face and focus in the distance, your eyes will blur the image of your finger and allow you to see far away clearly.



EBOOKSTORE.SONY.COM

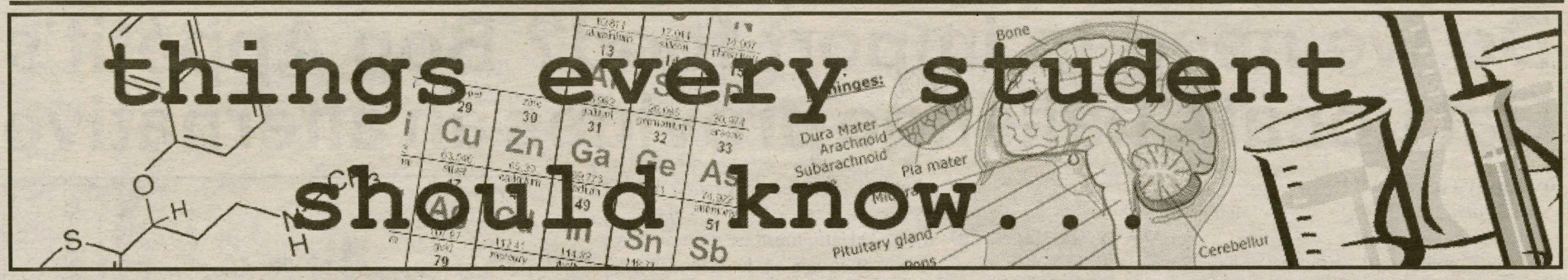
To prove his theory, Changizi looked for patterns among animals based on size, eye spacing and habitat. He found that animals that lived on plains or in areas without heavy foliage all had sideways eyes, no matter their size. However, animals that lived in forests and other areas where distance vision may be obstructed were more likely to have forward facing eyes if they were large than if they were small. So would aliens have forward-facing vision like ours? If they are large and come from a foliage-rich environment, then yes, they probably would.

WWW.CHANGIZI.COM

Changizi's next book will be ALOOF: How Not Giving a Damn Maximizes Your Creativity

Changizi then offered an explanation as to why optical illusions confuse our brains. Although we

see ***Vision****, page 14*



Head injuries from college athletics could cause Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, ALS and brain damage

by Ben Trachtman '12
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

The running back takes the handoff and surges upfield. He rounds the guard to see a 250-pound linebacker running full speed towards him. The defender makes the tackle, completely reversing the runner's direction in a split second. The linebacker stands up to celebrate the play as the crowd cheers, but the runner stays down, knocked out cold from a concussion.

When the running back gets slammed backwards by the linebacker, his brain is still moving forward, but his skull is moving in the opposite direction. The situation is much like a car crash, in which the passenger's inertia keeps him traveling in his original direction even though the car has come to an abrupt stop. In the case of the concussion, the brain is the passenger in the car of the skull, and when the car suddenly stops, the passenger is going to get hurt. When the brain collides with the inside of the skull, the result is a concussion.

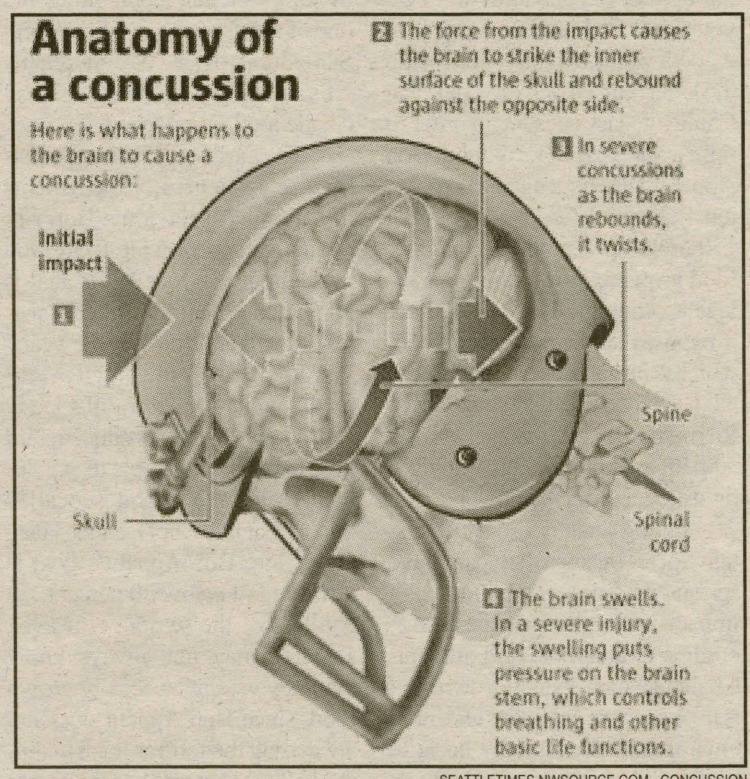
Concussions occur in nearly all contact sports. Some injuries might be more severe than others, but recent research suggests that all are highly dangerous. In the past, they have been regarded as a sign of weakness or an inability to take a hit in a physical sport, but researchers are finding that concussions suffered as early as high school can have long-reaching neurological effects.

When the brain collides with the skull, the neural tissue sustains a traumatic blunt injury. This immediate impact causes the release of ions and neurotransmitters that alter the brain's chemical environment and interfere with its normal behavior. Initial symptoms can include a loss of consciousness or memory deficits. However, a more frightening symptom is the appearance of a particular protein just hours after the injury.

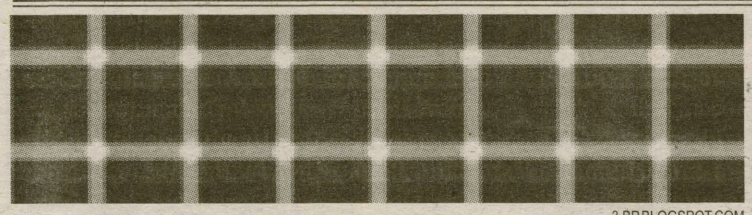
New research is finding that one of the hallmarks of traumatic brain injuries is the rapid production of the beta amyloid protein. This protein is known for being one of the primary markers of Alzheimer's disease. Other studies have shown a significant link between a history of concussions and the development of Alzheimer's later in life, which could be due in part to the production of this protein. Alzheimer's is only one of many neurodegenerative diseases linked with concussions. Parkinson's and ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, have also been correlated with traumatic brain injuries.

So what is the best way to combat concussions in a physical contact sport such as football? One of the biggest factors is the culture of the game. In the past, a coach would routinely send a player who had just received a concussion back into the game because he only "got his bell rung." Another solution could be rather counterintuitive: reduce the amount of protective padding the players wear. In the days of leather helmets, players were less likely to lead with their heads while making or breaking tackles. Modern helmets give players a false sense of security when it comes to their heads, and as such, they are more likely to put themselves in dangerous positions.

The single most effective way to prevent concussions in the future is to learn more about them. New technologies and recognition of concussions as a serious neurological problem have led to a dramatic increase in scientists' understanding of traumatic brain injuries, but more needs to be done. Several current NFL players have already donated their brains to future research. One of these players, Sean Morey, retired this past summer because of concussions.


Anatomy of a concussion
Here is what happens to the brain to cause a concussion:
1 Initial impact
2 The force from the impact causes the brain to strike the inner surface of the skull and rebound against the opposite side.
3 In severe concussions as the brain rebounds, it twists.
4 The brain swells. In a severe injury, the swelling puts pressure on the brain stem, which controls breathing and other basic life functions.
Skull
Spine
Spinal cord
SEATTLETIMES.NWSOURCE.COM - CONCUSSION

The next time you are sitting in the stands at a Hamilton football, hockey, soccer, rugby, lacrosse or baseball game, think about the players' brains. Keep an eye on any player who gets tackled, checks an opponent or slides into home and think about their brain. Every hit could be making them more and more prone to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or one of several other neurodegenerative diseases linked to concussions, even as early as their late teens and early 20's. It is a serious problem that the sporting community is just starting to understand, and it could lead to massive changes in the future.


3.BP.BLOGSPOT.COM

Lecturer explains optical illusions

from ***Vision,*** *page 13*

don't notice it, our brains often see lines as blurred or bowed outward as we move toward them. Our brains, because they know we are moving, predict what the image will look like without the blurred lines, and that is what we see. As Changizi explained, "to perceive the present, we must generate a perception of the future."

Optical illusions work because they provide our brains with some of the cues they use to indicate movement. Our brains anticipate movement and get confused, as they assume that we are moving when we aren't. Therefore, "if aliens move forward in the world, as long as they have brains that are not instantaneous, they're going to see illusions too."

Changizi concluded by exploring the origins of writing and reading. Although areas of our brains seem to be designed for reading, this could not be the case because these areas of our brain existed before written language. So why is it that we seem to be designed to read? Changizi argues that written languages all contain similar junctions and shapes that are familiar and common in nature. For example, a T and a Y are crossed lines that we often see in the shape of a tree or square objects overlapping.

To test his theory, Changizi examined multiple languages and compared the common lines and angles in the letters of their alphabets with those of other languages and with those that are common in nature. He found that most alphabets contain similar shapes, and these shapes are the more commonly found ones in nature. However, he was careful to clarify that "what's natural is not that it looks like the Serengeti. It's that it is 3D and has opaque objects strewn about." If aliens have similar opaque shapes, than "maybe the [letters] for aliens would just fit right in" with human alphabets.

Hamilton students attend conference on destructive mining

from ***Protest,*** *page 13*

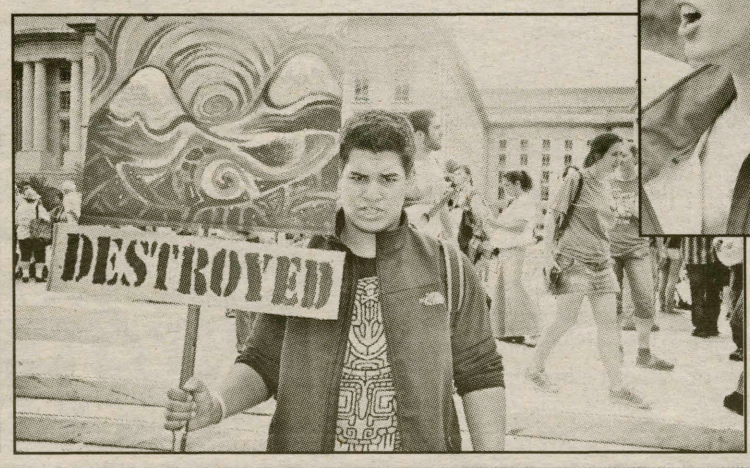
What was the experience like? What did you do there?

The destruction of the Appalachian Mountains is directly affecting people's lives. Residents of the region have started to speak out against the practice, and outsiders have also come out to show their support. However, many of the people who attended this conference didn't really know the depth of the problems this mining practice causes. Workshops were built into the schedule to give people a deeper understanding of the issue and how it directly affects residents' lives and indirectly affects ours.

What did you find the most valuable experience of the conference to be for you?

The most valuable part of the experience itself was being part of the protest and participating in something greater than myself. I felt like my voice was being heard and being in a mass of people was energizing and reviving. I was surrounded by people that were so passionate for what they were fighting for and I could just feed off their energy.

Some of us Hamiltonians went so far as to even risk getting arrested... and did. Will Gowen and Kristin Forgrave, thriving on and living in the moment, went for the kill and decided to stand for something that was greater than them. Both were arrested for civil disobedience after they refused to comply with police orders to leave the White House premises during the protest. If you're going to get arrested, it might as well be for a good cause.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL ARROYO '14

Students Kristen Forgrave '12 and Will Gowen '11 (above) were arrested during the protest. Michael Arroyo '14 holds a sign he made for the protest.

First loss of the season won't slow down men's soccer

by Dave Meisel '13
Sports Editor

Despite dropping their first game of the season on Sept. 24, the Hamilton men's soccer team is back on track, having won two of three games in the last week. The team's record to date stands at 5-1-2.

The Continentals dropped their first game at home on Sept. 24. In their Liberty League conference opener, Union won in overtime to end a back-and-forth affair by a 4-3 score. It was a tough contest for both teams, as Hamilton took the first lead on sophomore Anthony Balbo's third goal of the year (assist from Leo Nizzi '14). The lead held through the first half, but Union scored the next two goals to take a 2-1 lead. After Frank Campagnano '12 tied the game with an unassisted goal in the 67th minute, the Continentals were forced to fight back again when Union scored on a penalty kick in the 72nd minute. In the 88th minute, Hamilton tied the game with Balbo's second goal of the game, but they couldn't keep Union out of the net for long, as they got their fourth score of the game a little over a minute into overtime.

PHOTO BY MIKE DOHERTY
Midfielder Jesse Arroyave '11 manuevers past defenders.

The next day, Hamilton improved its Liberty League record with a win at home against Skidmore. Skidmore seized the lead in the 17th minute and kept Hamilton off the board for over a half, but in the 63rd minute Campagnano scored the equalizer on a direct kick. Bennett Weinerman '11 scored the game-winner with 2:15 remaining in the game to propel Hamilton to the win. Eric Boole '13 played well in net, with seven saves, but it was a bit of a close call for Hamilton, who held a massive 30-15 shots advantage and could have won by a much more comfortable margin.

Hamilton's most recent win was a 6-0 bashing of Cazenovia College on Sept. 29. They will be off until Oct. 8, when they head to Troy, NY to take on Rensselaer.

PHOTO BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11
Jacqueline Winter '14 dribbles up the field to score.

Women's soccer surges ahead

from ***Women's soccer****, page 16*

how to play soccer and I think it helped us gain back some of our confidence as a team." Haight had to sit out Friday's game against Union due to an injury, which caused the team to change their line up from a 4-4-2 to a 3-4-3.

With the help of their power forwards, Anne Gravely '11 and Alex Rimmer '13, the team came out with a different level of energy on Saturday against Skidmore. Meg Pengue '12 says, "in terms of the Skidmore game we stepped up our intensity and made sure we were first to every ball. We came out really flat against Union and we used that loss as motivation during our Skidmore game." This was an important win considering their next match up is against William Smith and the team really wants to carry the same focus and energy over to this game

The last time the Continentals kicked off against William Smith was in the Liberty League finals where they lost in a heartbreaking game. With a new team and a new attitude the team looks forward to this anticipated match up. When asked about the upcoming game Sarah Boak '12 comments, "Our game against William Smith is definitely one of the most highly anticipated games of the season. None of our current players have ever beat William Smith, but we've come so close in the past, It's always a high intensity game and facing William Smith always brings out the best in our play. This weekend we have the opportunity to prove ourselves against a nationally ranked team and I know we have the ability to rise to the challenge."

The women's team takes the field this weekend away at William Smith, but their next home game will be Fallcoming weekend October 8th against Rensselaer.

POWER RANKINGS

COMPILED BY THE TUFTS DAILY

The Middlebury Panthers took the biggest hit in this week's installment of the NESCAC power rankings, falling from second overall to fourth, primarily due to the 1-2-1 in-conference record of their women's soccer team. As a result, Tufts was the biggest winner, thanks in large part to a historic tie from its men's soccer team, and overtook Amherst and Middlebury for its highest ranking of the season.

After a brief stint in seventh place, Trinity reclaimed its spot in the middle of the pack, settling into fifth place after a seventh-place showing in Week 2. The bottom four all remained unchanged.

THIS WEEK	SCHOOL	FOOTBALL	MEN'S SOCCER	WOMEN'S SOCCER	FIELD HOCKEY	VOLLEYBALL	AVERAGE	LAST WEEK
1	WILLIAMS	2 (2.00)	1 (1.67)	1 (1.33)	8 (7.50)	5 (4.33)	3.37	1 ↔
2	TUFTS	5 (5.67)	4 (5.67)	4 (4.17)	1 (1.33)	1 (1.50)	3.67	4 ↑
3	AMHERST	1 (1.83)	3 (3.00)	2 (2.17)	5 (5.33)	7 (6.83)	3.83	3 ↑
4	MIDDLEBURY	4 (4.00)	2 (1.83)	7 (6.83)	t-6 (5.67)	4 (4.00)	4.47	2 ↓
5	TRINITY	3 (2.33)	10 (8.67)	3 (3.00)	3 (3.50)	6 (5.67)	4.63	7 ↑
6	BOWDOIN	7 (6.67)	t-5 (6.33)	6 (6.00)	2 (2.00)	3 (3.67)	4.93	5 ↓
7	CONN. COLLEGE	—	t-5 (6.33)	10 (9.50)	t-6 (5.67)	2 (2.33)	5.96	6 ↓
8	WESLEYAN	6 (5.83)	t-5 (6.33)	5 (5.83)	4 (5.00)	8 (7.83)	6.17	8 ↔
9	COLBY	t-8 (8.33)	9 (8.00)	9 (8.50)	9 (9.00)	10 (9.67)	8.70	9 ↔
10	BATES	10 (10.00)	8 (7.17)	8 (7.67)	10 (10.00)	9 (9.17)	8.80	10 ↔
11	HAMILTON	t-8 (8.33)	—	—	—	11 (11.00)	9.67	11 ↔

The poll was devised as follows: Each voter ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport, and those scores were averaged to create a composite ranking for each sport. The composites were then averaged to determine each school's overall ranking. Note that Hamilton does not compete in field hockey, men's soccer or women's soccer in the NESCAC, and Conn. College does not compete in football.

This week's list was determined by polling Amro El-Adle (Amherst Student), James Reedy & Seth Walder (Bowdoin Orient), Nick Woolf & Mike Flint (Conn. College Voice), Katie Siegner (Middlebury Campus), Ann Curtis and Emily Gittleman (Trinity Tripod) and Alex Prewitt (Tufts Daily).

DESIGNED BY STEVEN SMITH/TUFTS DAILY

Isenberg's running game can't lift Conts

from ***Football****, page 16*

to do more than have an effective running game. We've got to be a complete offense."

Hamilton's air game was adequate, but not enough to put them over the top. Wilson completed 16 of 37 passes for 158 yards with one touchdown and one interception. He distributed the ball well, finding eight different receivers who averaged nearly 10 yards per reception. His top target was Ryan Cray, a 5-11 sophomore wide receiver who caught 4 passes for 52 yards.

The defense was anchored by Mike MacDonald '13 and Rich Gannon '11. MacDonald led the team with seven solo and four assisted tackles, with Gannon notching seven solo tackles and two assists. Gannon also sacked Tufts quarterback Fucillo once. Head Coach Steve Stetson complimented MacDonald, Gannon, and Burke St. John '11, noting that they all played "especially well."

To the defense's credit, they played well against a Tufts offense that came into the came sporting a completely new offensive gameplan. Traditionally, Tufts has run a power-I, run-heavy style offense. Hamilton met with was Tufts' new pass-heavy, spread-style offense, designed due to their lack of fullback and tight end recruits. Stetson noted that they had heard rumors that Tufts was doing more passing, but "We didn't know... you don't have any film of your first opponent, and we didn't have any film of their offense."

Overall, it was a stronger effort by the Continentals than last year. Isenberg remarked, "I think we played a lot better than last year," but Stetson emphasized that despite the team's solid defensive performance, they need more, "If we are going to improve, our offensive skill players (other than Dylan) need to play much better." The Continentals look to improve on Saturday's performance as they travel to Middletown, Connecticut on Oct. 2 to take on Wesleyan.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
September 30, 2010

Continentals come up short against Tufts

by Evan Klondar '11
Editorial Page Editor

Despite having the strongest performance by a Hamilton running back in over five years, the Continentals dropped their season opener to Tufts on Saturday, 21-10.

Over 700 fans were on hand to watch two great individual offensive performances, but ultimately, it was Tufts senior Anthony Fucillo's prolific day through the air that outdid the impressive ground performance of Hamilton junior running back Dylan Isenberg. Isenberg gained 136 yards on 29 carries, but Fucillo threw for 255 yards and two touchdowns, averaging 14 yards per completion.

Isenberg's impressive ground performance couldn't carry the Continentals, who fell behind by two touchdowns in the second quarter and couldn't come back within 11 points. Fucillo threw a 52-yard strike to senior Pat Bailey to open up the scoring early in the second quarter, and with 6:09 to play in the first half, Tufts returned a Lance Wilson '11 pass 74 yards to go up 14-0.

Hamilton's first score was set up by Isenberg's long run on the day, a 22-yard gain that set up a George Taylor '11 field goal with time winding down in the half.

Tufts came out strong in the third quarter, scoring early on a 2-yard pass from Fucillo to senior Billy Mahler that capped off an 8-play, 76-yard drive that ended up being the dagger. The Continentals attempted to battle back throughout the second half, finally succeeding on a 21-yard touchdown pass from Wilson to Scott Kleinkaus '11, but the Continentals were unable to pull back any further.

Senior Conner Smith commented that the game was much closer than the scoreboard would indicate. "Although we were never within 11 points of the lead, it would have been a 7-3 game heading into halftime if not for the interception returned for a touchdown." The Continentals had been driving and reached the Tufts 10 before getting hit with a sack and then the pick-six.

Isenberg's big day helped keep the defense off the field for long stretches, but the Continentals were unable to capitalize on a whopping 12-minute advantage in time of possession. Isenberg commented on the offense's lack of balance, saying, "We need

*see **Football**, page 15*

PHOTO BY MIKE DOHERTY

Junior Dylan Isenberg fights for yardage in a 2009 contest against Amherst.

Women's soccer preps for a tough William Smith team

PHOTO BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

Junior keeper Hailey Bobin sets up for a goal kick.

by Rebecca Hazlett '13
Sports contributor

The women's soccer team takes away a lot from last weekend's games in preparation for a huge match up against long time rival William Smith. After a deflating loss on Friday against Union, 2-0, the team came back with more fire and determination to beat Skidmore 1-0 the following day. The big test will come this weekend when they go on the road to play William Smith entering the game with a 5-1-1 overall record and a 1-1-0 Liberty League record.

The Continentals were very disappointed with their loss to Union this past Friday as Chelsea Haight '13, who is a key member of the back line, comments, "As a team we work so well together on and off the field and Friday's loss proved that there's so many things we still have to work on. Going into Saturday's game, losing wasn't an option. After the win, it was a great feeling knowing that we

*see **Women's soccer**, page 15*

Hamilton Sports Scoreboard

Sept. 23 - Sept. 29

FOOTBALL
Sept. 25- Loss 10-21 @ Tufts

SOCCER
Men's:
Sept. 24- Loss 3-4 vs Union
Sept. 25.- Win 2-1 vs Skidmore
Sept. 29- Win 6-0 vs Cazenovia College

Women's:
Sept. 24- Loss 0-2 @ Union
Sept. 25- Win 1-0 @ Skidmore

VOLLEYBALL
Sept. 25- Win 3-0 @ Green Mountain College
Sept. 25- Win 3-0 vs Lyndon State @ Green Mountain College
Sept. 28- Win 3-0 @ Utica College

FIELD HOCKEY
Sept. 24- Win 7-0 vs Vassar College
Sept. 25 Win 4-1 vs Rensselaer
Sept. 28 Win 8-0 vs Hartwick College

GOLF
Sept. 25-26-6th @ Williams Fall Invitational